

IN
C A S E S
D A N G E R O U S
N I
M E D I C I N E:
INTERSPERSED WITH
S T R I C T U R E S, &c.

IN THE PRESS,
And to be published with all convenient Speed,

REMARKS
ON THE
DANGEROUS EFFECTS
OF
Promiscuous BLOOD-LETTING,
AND THE
Common preposterous Administration of
DRUGS;
With other SUBJECTS, medical and moral.

BY WILLIAM STEVENSON, M. D.

Non nobis solum, sed toti mundo nati,

C A S E S
I N
M E D I C I N E :
I N T E R S P E R S E D W I T H
S T R I C T U R E S ,
O C C A S I O N E D B Y S O M E L A T E
M E D I C A L T R A N S A C T I O N S
I N T H E T O W N O F
N E W A R K .

BY WILLIAM STEVENSON, M. D.

*Itas est et ab hoste doceri ;
Lædere qui potuit prodeesse aliquando valebit.*

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M D C C LXXXI.

P R E F A C E.

MANY of the positions occurring in this pamphlet, make part of an extensive work, but have been introduced here, though differently worded, as forming an intimate connection with the cases and incidents of a local nature it contains. Though they may be called *novel* and *singular*, I take upon me to say, they will be found to stand the severest *learned* and *rational* examination.

They likewise proceed on generous principles, those that regard the *heart*, as well as the *head*. All endeavours to interest the one, and enlighten the other, are meritorious, and entitled to an impartial perusal. I desire no more.—Both writers and readers have a plain direct line of conduct before them. The first, to enlarge, as far as they can, the boundaries of useful knowledge, and establish science on the clearest and simplest principles; and the last, to contract those habits of wisdom, discretion,

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and correct behaviour, which, at the same time that they dignify our nature, tend to make up shining examples to reform the world. I know not the use of living for any other purpose, except as the INFERIOR ANIMALS live—to eat, drink, and sleep! When it is otherwise, better, surely, for most men, *not to have been born*.—A life devoted to trifles, idleness, or selfish purposes, is a life *mispent*.

I wish, likewise, Apothecaries in general to be convinced, that they have no right to undertake the management of diseases; and, as they unquestionably act *without authority*, when they do, that they are *justly chargeable* with every fatal consequence that may ensue.—This is a delicate matter in a moral light, therefore, should strike them home.

But, instead of this, many of them show indecent and rude behaviour, when a physician is called in, *without their permission*. The writer has been assured of several instances of such behaviour, where he has been concerned; at first, could scarcely credit the information, but, at length, coming from a variety of respectable quarters, he could no longer

longer be incredulous. However, he is happy to find the country every where *begin* to open its eyes on a conduct so intrusive and presumptuous ; as if ENGLISHMEN should not dare to think and judge for themselves, in a thing of such magnitude as—*life, health, and the choice of their physician.*—Happy for all three when they shall be *fully* opened !

Yet the world is not without apology. No Physician hitherto has been singularly bold and disinterested enough, to break the chain of connection between the apothecaries and the people, a species of abject, but popular tyranny. People, held in thraldom by personal attachments, confounding the *man* with a *profession*, intimidated by a false solicitude not to offend, or biassed by *interested motives*, seldom send for a Physician till the Apothecary is alarmed,—*alarmed* for the mischievous train of symptoms himself has occasioned — and when *Apothecaries* are alarmed, Physicians may bring the undertaker and grave digger in their suit. — Who of modern times, say, ye Esculapians ! can raise a *Lazaras* from the dead ?

WRONG, however, established for a length of time, gets the countenance of RIGHT, and is credited as such.—Take the film from men's eyes, and the charm is dissolved.—What had been the growth of many ages, shall yield to as many weeks of plain dealing, and honest information.—Then should it be—in Law, Divinity, and Physic—the very reverse of the pitiful adage, **MALUM BENE POSITUM NE MOVETO**: an adage, which disgraces and impoverishes the world, while it pampers Lawyers, Bishops, and Physicians! An adage, that stands in the way of *every* reformation, and will continue to see our wretched world grow worse and worse, as it grows old!

The opposition I have met with in Newark from the apothecaries, and those who thought themselves bound to take a side with them, on account of *relationship*, or *incidental connections*, has been attended with this advantage, that I have thereby been spurred on *actually* to accomplish, what I had only in *contemplation* to do some time or other.—I began early to be a deep and attentive observer of life, but in so calm and noiseless a way, as to be little observed,

served, except as a sequestered, bookish, *oddish* young man ; while my profession naturally turned my thoughts to *consider* it in a particular manner.—I am now thoroughly convinced, that the common practice of physic is wrong in many of its *first* principles, and by much too narrowed and interested in its views.



The reader might think me vain were I to furnish him with a recital of cases, chiefly among the poor, that have turned out successful in my hands, since I came to Newark. They are indeed numerous, and have all been treated *contrary* to the reigning mode. I was grieved to hear most of them complaining of having spent much of their scanty substance, to purchase drugs by which they *grew worse*, particularly, that expensive and fallacious article, the *Jesuit's, or Peruvian bark*. But my grief was soon changed to inexpressible satisfaction, upon seeing the poor creatures recover, to their astonishment, and at no expence to them.



According to just probability, the writer has been the humble instrument of saving *many* lives, particularly those of *children*, beside restoring limbs to several, rendered useless al-

most by scorbutic humours, in a confined state, or running partially off in foul ulcers.—His method is perfectly simple and safe, but the *reverse* of common treatment, and requires, in valitudinarians, far less patience and firmness, than to endure the *unassisted* complaint.—

These things might have reposed in the writer's breast for some years to come, being rather *inactively* disposed, had not the conduct of the apothecaries roused him to *exertion*. So far I thank them, and the world has reason to thank them, but no farther. For their *motives* they are accountable to their God.—

For my part, when I go abroad and meet numbers of my recovered patients—recovered to industry and the maintenance of their little families—I have a sensation of comfort, perhaps pride, every day, at the returns of which the whispers, *meant* to injure me, and busily circulated, die away so as not to be heard, like the hooting of owls, at the opening of a full morning chorus of vernal songsters.

The liberty the writer has taken, unceremoniously to discuss medical subjects, interesting to all, but, hitherto, little understood, every professional

professional man has, in his turn, a right to take; especially those who are immediately involved in the animadversions this little work contains. Should they step forward by the press, they shall be welcome; but they must write like *gentlemen* and *scholars*. If they do not, they will be their own *answerers*, and shall have no reply from me.

Hanc veniam petimusque damusque vicissim.

Most probably, however, it will pass unanswered, *except* in the private walks of whisper and sneer, or *Newspaper* anonymous stricture, neither of which shall be attended to.—Mentioning *Newspapers* excites gratitude.

The writer returns his acknowledgements to the Editors of certain provincial Papers, for their politeness and civility to a **STRANGER**.—They are entitled to it.—To be on record in the enrolments of *Newspaper ABUSE*, places him on a level with *many* of the most illustrious characters of the age, whose rectitude of principle, stubborn virtue and integrity, are their only *faults*; an honour the whole amount of his ambition could scarcely have aspired to.

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The following pages, likewise, having been written on the spur of a sudden, but interesting occasion, the kind reader will pardon the errors of *haste*; likewise, the awkward looking circumstance of the notes being in an Italic character, instead of a smaller common type than the text, which could not immediately be procured.—For every thing else the writer holds himself answerable to the public, and shall respectfully abide its decision.—If he has sometimes been angry or severe, let it be remembered that—*his all was at stake*; for a man's *professional character*, next to a *good conscience*, is *his ALL*. A man's property, whatever it may be, is no part of *himself*.—Upon the whole it is hoped the scriptural precept has not been exceeded, “*be ye angry and sin not*;” and that the writer does not say without truth,

Inutiles ramos amputans, feliores inferit.

CASES IN MEDICINE, &c.

IN justice to the public, to a liberal and honourable profession, and to myself, I am called upon briefly to justify *my mode of practice* with reference to a combination of the apothecaries of Newark against it.* It is a matter of most serious concern, entitled to public discussion; and not a poultry job between one professional man and another, *transacted in secret*. Such jobs I have ever detested and opposed, and ever shall. My views are humane and generous, I will be allowed to say, towards mankind; nor should

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* *I except one of the faculty.*

the pecuniary emoluments of any profession preponderate in the scale against the common interest and welfare of the world. Short *facts* are the best arguments. They may be sometimes viewed through jaundiced mediums, but, for the most part, they will enlighten and convince.

I came to Newark on the most liberal plan. Men of honour and sentiment will never adopt any other. I brought warm letters of recommendation to some of the principal inhabitants, and was politely received. My predecessor, a respectable man, was then living, but generally thought to be incurably gone in a pulmonary decline. To remove all doubts and suspicions, I wrote to him first, and afterwards, at a personal interview, assured him, my views in coming to Newark were of the most disinterested kind, and so far from being meant to hurt his feelings in the slightest degree, that I should immediately relinquish the field, upon his being able to reassume his business; in the meantime offering to attend any of his patients, either in town or country, that were deprived of the advantage of his personal visits.

Dr.

Dr. Halilay acknowledged the openness and candour of my conduct : His friends did the same, to whom I had made a similar declaration, and every thing bore the fairest appearance, and received in all conversations the happiest construction. Indeed my being on the spot some time before my worthy predecessor's death, was of advantage to him, as it tended to keep others out of his professional circuit, who might not have carried themselves towards him with equal delicacy, or sentimental justice.

Till death happily relieved Dr. H. from the distress of a lingering and hopeless disorder, I lay by, without any efforts to enlarge my acquaintance, or procure patients ; that not the smallest nerve of sensibility, affecting the Doctor or his friends, should suffer from me.

Upon the field being my own, business gradually came in, and, for some time, the apothecaries politely showed me every flattering attention. The medical horizon, however, soon became overspread with thick clouds ;

my brethren began to look shy at me, and to whisper certain ungracious insinuations respecting a design I seemed to have of *starving them*, by curing my patients with few drugs. In short, it was at length broadly declared, that If I continued to disregard their interest in such a manner, I was to expect no patients of their procuring. This was at least an honest declaration, to the strict meaning of which they have, except one gentleman, steadily adhered.

Now is the proper time to take notice, that, for many years past, I have found my success in practice exactly in proportion to the simplicity of my prescription, and a close attention to what the powers of the constitution can do with little help. In short, the oftener I receded from the schools, the seldom I failed to cure my patient; or, to vary the account, the fewer medicines I ordered from the apothecary's shop, the greater number of recoveries happened in my hands.

On this plan, so totally different from that of my brethren, I have made enemies among them according to the extent of my success in recovering

recovering patients. Why they should be so, the world will be at no loss to form a judgment. I shall ever pride myself in being the *People's Physician*, (which I have been a dozen years past, in more than one place) and envy not the strict union and intimacy of the several branches of the faculty with each other. I only beg leave to observe, in general, that, when it is so, detached from the consideration of moral character, and religious worth, which are the attributes of the man, not of a profession, I say when it is so, "there is something rotten in the state of Denmark;" and the people are to be roused to a sense of safety, respecting their lives and constitutions, by every fair rational method thrown in their way. To rouse them by every such means in my power, by the press, in conversation, and in the ordinary course of medical practice, has been, and ever shall be, my unwearied study and endeavour. I have lived to near middle-age in the cause, unrelaxed and unintimidated, and I shall die in it.

The cause of the people, is the cause of God; and every (though learned) trade
that

that steps in between, is an enemy to both, however disguised behind the plausible mask of professional courtesy and address. Behind this disguise, men are daily amassing large fortunes, while the art of healing halts upon crutches, and blunders as much as it did a century ago : And it will never be otherwise, while amassing fortunes is the universal passion, and gold is worshipped by individuals of a profession with a truth, constancy, and ardour, unknown to the worship of the Deity who made us.

When I see professional men hastening into the vale of years, with grey-growing locks, and time beginning his broad and deep furrows on their foreheads ; when I see them bustling to enlarge fortunes they already cannot spend, and blundering from day to day on the absurd maxims of a century ago, without daring to look to the right hand or to the left, of science and philosophy illuminating the *devious path* ; I pity the man, at the same time that I condemn and reprobate the professional character.

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I have had *my* opportunities of making a fortune ; but *felt* them so much in opposition to my principles and convictions, so much at war with the peace and happy enjoyment of my own mind, that I relinquished them to those who could toil behind a popular vizor, to make a fortune, which of course they must leave behind them in a few years, destitute of the only comfort I know on a death-bed, which is, the consideration of having despised all their lives the making of the very fortunes they have made. This is the voice of philosophy, and of a system infinitely superior to it in all respects, I mean the *Christian Religion*. It begins with recommendations, nay commands, to despise riches, and not to accumulate property; and ends with them.

The reader will excuse my growing morally serious, because I am convinced that, till the love of riches, and the ardour of amassing them, are blunted and moderated, by a true philosophy, and a rational acquaintance with Revelation, every profession will continue to abound with *tricks, frauds, and impositions* ;

to the discomfort of mankind, and the degradation of the human character. Though these sentiments stand on the broad basis of philosophical as well as revealed truth, I am considered as a singular and unaccountable man for adopting them, and acting in my professional character accordingly. Indeed, I have been so accustomed for many years to this singularity of character being imputed to me, that were it now to become the reverse, I should begin to think myself singular.

I write with firmness, because I have for many years past been *used* to write for the public, under various signatrues, sometimes with the authentication of my own name. To be at leisure for writing, with a degree of practice on the whole not incompatible with it, was the principal inducement that brought me to Newark, through the venerable medium of my much esteemed and respected friend, the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Bath. I love Newark, notwithstanding the unaccountable opposition raised against me in it, I know not for what, unless it be that I never offended any one in the town, and that I strangely cure my patients

patients with as few drugs as possible, and in as simple forms: a species of *guilt* which I have no doubt will be pardoned in another world, whatever may be its professional fate in this.

Having, I am afraid, encroached on the patience of the reader, by a string of *egotisms*, and general remarks, I know not almost with what grace farther to solicit his kind attention, while a particular case comes under his eye, at once interesting to *every* family, to the feelings of *one* respectable family in particular, and, to the last and least of all, highly interesting to myself. The matter shall be cut short. I consider the reader as a philosopher, a man of independent sentiment, who will not take a side, because he happens to be born such a one's *relation*. Under so honourable an appellation, I have no scruple to submit the following case to his good sense and candour, (among others) a case, perhaps, authenticated by the *very* person concerned, which, for the honour of physic, and professional ingenuity, is not, I believe, on medical record!

Soon after my arrival in Newark, I was sent for by Mrs. Low E,* to attend her daughter, whose case was *almost* esteemed a lost one. I, however, upon examining appearances and symptoms, did not think so, as the young lady's vitals seemed to be perfectly sound, and she had no hectic or symptomatic fever of any consideration. At the same time I candidly acknowledge this, it was and is my opinion, that if the manner of treating her had not been materially changed, she would have fallen a victim to the duration of her disorder, by the humour falling on her lungs, or elsewhere.

I found her indeed in a deplorable condition; a virulent scorbutic humour spread over her neck, face, head, &c. the inside of one ear in an ulcerated state, and discharging a corrosive matter; one of her eyes threatened with total blindness, in such a state of inflammation, and so exquisitely painful, as not to bear the smallest access of light; and her general

* *I have her obliging permission to mention her name.*

general habit reduced and emaciated. She was costive, restless at night ; and, in short, both day and night, uneasy, sore, and distressed all over.

She had been Mr. Milnes's patient for a long time before, had taken a number of drugs to no good effect, and was daily growing worse, to the inexpressible affliction of a most tender mother, and affectionate family. Mr. Milnes mistook the case, and consequently mismanaged it. The humour first attacked the lower extremities. Judicious practice would have discharged it thence, by apertures properly sustained, instead of using desiccatives (which are always repellants) whereby the flow of acrid humours tended upwards, and got as far as they could go, which was the opposite extremity, the head. There, treated in a similar way, they could not have remained long, but soon must have fallen upon the lungs, and carried off the little innocent.

In the critical interval, I was sent for, when matters soon began to put on a better face, under the blessing of Providence, which al-

ways propitiates the second means, when rational and upright.

Two medical indications, of the last importance, in Miss J. Lowe's case, were either misapprehended, or neglected. She was kept on so poor and low a regimen, that her constitution was rendered unable to make any effort for itself. In such a case, what can even the best forms of medicine do, but miserably disappoint the flattering expectations of friends, trifle with valuable lives, and heap up the apothecary's file ! In the instance under consideration, the practice had the worst effects, by interrupting all the secretions, more and more vitiating the juices, and increasing the general acrimony, already uncommonly alarming. With respect to the other indication, the intestinal canal was suffered to remain loaded with ill-conditioned tenacious mucus, and putrid bile ; whence an absorption constantly took place, heightening all the bad symptoms ; whilst the little patient was cheated of half the nourishment she was even permitted to have.

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This will ever happen, when the orifices of the lacteals are choaked up with thick viscid matter, which not only prevents the nutritious chyle from passing into the system freely, but assimilates to itself the very fluid it obstructs, and thus increases the morbid state of the bowels. — Practitioners of all kinds should attend to this circumstance: it is a leading one in most chronic complaints, especially of children, and perfectly accounts for the hardness and fulness of the belly, and the pallid, sickly, biliary complexions, we meet with every day.

Most of my brethren are cowards in practice, with regard to medicines that unload the stomach and intestines; while, with the hand of boldness and daring, they will take away large quantities of the purest blood of the body, and consequently leave it robbed of so much of its *life*. I have no doubt of the lancet having destroyed more lives, than the tom-mahawk, or scalping knife. My brethren trifle with ipecacuanha, manna, salts, buckthorn, &c. whilst they leave the grand officinal evacuants almost untried. Superstitiously attached

tached to the schools, and to proævian forms of prescribing, they render the success in practice, between them and old women, a rival matter of difficult decision.*

From

* In cases where emetics or purgatives are necessary, from 3 to 7 grains of emetic tarter, either in powder or solution, with nothing to drink till the medicine begin to act reversely, is my favourite prescription, respecting the first; and respecting the latter, pills, adjusted in their power of operating according to the circumstances of age and strength, made of Socotorine, or Hepatic aloes, jalap, or scammony, with the strongest antimonial ingredients. The operation of these, judiciously supported, never disappoints me.—Where worms are suspected, with their viscous slimy beds, nothing acts more powerfully than calomel pills, from 4 to 12 grains, given at bed-time, and, next morning, assisted by strong bitter purgative draughts. The very weight of the pill hurries down every thing loose or moveable in its way, besides its specific deleterious quality against worms. Sometimes, when taken to the extent

From the foregoing narrative the judicious medical reader will anticipate my manner of treating my little patient. She was so extremely reduced and low, that I paused a few days that she might pick up a little strength, to render her a safe subject for the operation of medicine, allowing her wine or brandy in her ass's milk, and every kind of light animal food. This had the desired effect, she became stronger, in consequence of which I opened a pretty large blister on each arm, and gave her occasionally as strong purgatives as her weak condition admitted. Her blisters continued to discharge happily for eight weeks, and, so far from weakening her, as vulgar prejudices might apprehend, she grew visibly stronger every week, insomuch

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extent of Gr. octo vel decim, it gently pukes, if there is any thing foul in the stomach; but, in general, is mild and kindly in its operation, and never affects the mouth, as not getting time to enter the system. Nothing but professional inexperience will dread its effects.

that I added considerably to the operative power of her purging vermifuge medicines. They brought away, at different times, large quantities of blackish viscid matter, fœtid bile, with obvious appearances of worms and their beds broken down, but discriminable from the ropy slimy stuff with which they were mixt. The runnings every where began to lessen and dry up, by slow degrees, while nature co-operated with art by forming a considerable lump behind the ear, which, by proper applications, broke, suppurated, and healed. Along with these happy appearances, my patient's eye gradually recovered from the inflammation which rendered it so extremely irritable, from the humours that obstructed its vessels, and overspread its surface. In short, my little maid is now perfectly recovered, the agreeable surprise of those who never expected to see her down stairs, and a living, pleasing memorial of a rational plan, pursued with steadiness and perseverance on the one hand, and confidence and magnanimity on the other. May she live long, the delight of her parents, and an incitement, as often as she is seen, or
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her name mentioned, to practitioners in physic, *not* to undertake the management of cases they are totally ignorant of, relying on the futile and beggarly compositions of the shop !

When I say perfectly recovered, it is no draw-back on the truth of the assertion to tell the candid reader, that a little superficial scab-like appearance, about the corners of her mouth, still remains, obviously in the act of scaling off ; and that the eye, which once could not suffer the smallest ray of light to enter it, now opposed to the broad dazzling light of noon, betrays a degree of sensibility and weakness. My gentle convalescent eats her meals heartily ; sleeps well ; is as strong on her legs as most children of her age ; alert and sprightly at her little plays ; capable of any exercise, and of enjoying every object, suitable to her time of life.

N. B. For the authenticity of every particular contained in the foregoing narrative and case, I appeal — to the only proper authority — to the parents and friends of Miss J. Lowe.

But I have not done with Mr. Milnes, though, with much satisfaction, I have with my patient. He is to be brought before the tribunal of the public, and there acquitted or condemned, as that most respectable tribunal shall see cause. I acknowledge no other, never have, nor ever shall. The authority of Dr. such-a-one, be he even on the first list of London practitioners, is no authority to me; much less that of any neighbouring physician; and still infinitely less, that of any apothecary, whether a practitioner now, or one who practised thirty years ago. I know no such men as umpires or arbitrators. Reason, or Common Sense, shall be my only judge, and facts and arguments, the only jury that shall be admissible to try me.

When the recovery of Miss J. Lowe became an object of public notoriety, something must be done to throw a degree of credit I obtained on the occasion, into shade. The attempt, indeed, was no less impolitic, than it was disingenuous and wicked. — Upon my patient's growing so strong as to bear powerful evacuations, which I saw to be immediately

mediately necessary, I first ordered Mercur. dulc. Gr. quinque, made into a pill, to be taken at bed-time, and to be carried out of the system next morning by a purgative draught. The pill had no visible effect, and the dose, upon the whole, did not amount to my expectations. Next I ordered Mercur. dulc. Gr. sex. with a stronger co-operating purgative potion, to be taken as before. These also disappointed me, having an effect very inadequate to the necessity of the case. Resolving to effect my purpose, which was pretty plentifully to empty, I increased the pill to Gr. octo, as well as the powers of the accompanying draught. The apothecary, alarmed at eight grains of calomel to be given, at once, to a child, was struck with professional horrors,—paused and muttered—muttered and paused again, at the magnitude of the danger; but, not trusting to his own fund of medical knowledge, he cautiously enclosed, sealed, and transmitted the dangerous prescription to a learned brother, for his superior advice and direction. The reader will smile when he is told *who* that learned brother was, viz. a person who was himself an apothecary

about thirty years ago, though now in an independent rank of life. — But it is time to be serious.

The family, where I attended, hearing a confident report in the town that Mr. Milnes had altered a prescription of mine, ordered for Miss J. Lowe, and that if he had not altered it, the consequences to my patient might have been fatal, (it was mentioned in another way by the propagators, but I am not fond of vulgar language,) made it a point to have an interview between the apothecary and me. At the meeting, the former at once acknowledged the fact, alledging, at the same time, that he sent my prescription sealed to his learned brother, to prevent the world knowing any thing of it. The fact being ascertained before three witnesses, from his own mouth, shortened the business. I told Mr. Milnes it was a serious affair, and, as the public were particularly concerned in it, that I should lay it before the public, and await their sentence. I mentioned moreover, that altering a physician's prescription, abstracted from the moral delinquency of it, was a *crime actionable*

actionable at law, and subject to returns of damages and costs. I am convinced there is not a jury in England but would give them. On this uncommon affair I shall beg the reader's attention to a few obvious remarks.

No apothecary has a right to change, alter, or modify a physician's prescription, upon any account; because a physician, graduated at a royal college, acts by royal authority, and is alone the responsible man for the effects of the medicines he employs. As such I had the honour to be intrusted with the care of Miss Lowe, in a most critical state of health. Mr. Milnes's applying to a second person for his concurrence, made the matter worse, as it was bringing another man to share his *guilt*; and because that person was as little authorized as himself, to take so unwarrantable a liberty.

I use the term *guilt* with the strictest propriety, for the consequences might have involved the death of a patient, the forfeited peace and happiness of a worthy family, and the destruction of an innocent man's professi-
onal

onal character. That such consequences did not ensue, was not owing to Mr. Milnes, or his accomplice, the mayor of a town, and a magistrate for the county. As it was, there existed a treacherous underhand combination, of two persons, against the child, the family it belonged to, and the attendant physician, who, for some weeks, with the easy confidence of unsuspicion, was going on in the administration of medicines as his *own*, while, in fact, they were the medicines of *two others*, only authorized to prescribe by their *good opinion of themselves..*

Here let it be noted, that medicines *laid aside*, are medicines *unordered*; or, in other words, that the last prescription, superceding others that went before, amounts to the same thing as if those others had never been ordered. Mr. Milnes then and his secret coadjutor, one of them an acting, the other a *quondam* apothecary, stand accusable, at the bar of the public, for suppressing my prescription, and substituting one of their own in the place of it; for, as I said before, the moment I disused two preceding forms, they ceased to be mine.

Thus

Thus, then, my patient, Miss Lowe, unknown to me, unknown to the family, and unknown to the world, all alike deceived, for some weeks was under the management of two persons, acting clandestinely and exclusively ; who, in *any* case, have no legal authority to prescribe, and, in the one alluded to, were *particularly* interdicted from prescribing, by every sentiment of professional honour, and moral integrity.*

Had

* *Mr. Milnes, reduced to the last shift of conscious misconduct, alledged, in his defence, that, as Miss J. Lowe is a ward under the guardianship of Mr. SIKES, he judged it to be prudent and proper to consult him on the occasion. How futile the apology ! How difficult to reconcile the disingenuous arts of a profession to moral truth and propriety !—The parent is the NATURAL guardian of her child, and supercedes every other. Beside, there was another guardian in the family, a GRANDFATHER. Both these had no scruple to intrust me with the child's life ; and were not their*

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Had my patient died, (there was a possibility in the case, at the time) or languished for years without recovering, to whom should the blame have been imputable ? Who should have been the morally accountable persons ? Mr. Milnes and his medical counsellor, undoubtedly. — Though Providence was kind (I am not ashamed to own a Providence, and to confess that I look upon myself as merely its instrument) in restoring the young lady to health, by humble means, therefore the guilt of a death not now crying at their door ; yet my patient's recovery was protracted, in consequence of their dark and cruel interference, and delays always inveterate a disorder, and give it a faster hold of the constitution ; beside the expence of my attendance to the family being thereby considerably

joint authority quite sufficient ? — Moreover, it was an obvious step of honour and duty for the nominal to have talked over the affair with the acting guardians, and then, along with the physician, to have finally adjusted the whole. As the matter stands now, the apology is worse than none, and betrays a bad cause.

derably increased, not to mention the distress of suspense to those concerned, who could not otherwise be than painfully anxious about an event so naturally interesting, as the recovery of a beloved child. Here damages would certainly lie, both on account of pecuniary loss to the family, and the manifest risque of character to which the physician was exposed for some weeks.

I repeatedly expressed my surprise that the pill I ordered over night had not the effect I wished and expected, and had no other resource at the time but to ascribe my disappointment to a peculiarity in my patient's constitution; little suspecting the true cause, or that there was so little professional uprightness in the town of Newark, as that an apothecary resident there, in a pecuniary sense, independent of business, going down the hill of life, at the bottom of which, a few years hence, he will be no more, backed and encouraged by a gentleman full as far slid down the same declivity, with not so strong a constitutional hold of the ground, should dis honour my prescription, and surreptitiously

assume my responsibility, without being subjected to the consequences, had my patient's case turned out fatally !

Mr. Milnes, at the interview, awkwardly embarrassed to say any thing solid or pertinent in his own defence, was contented, previous to his abrupt departure, to say that, with respect to the propriety of what he had done, he was perfectly satisfied in his own mind. But Mr. Milnes must be told, that *his* mental satisfaction will not do. Regarding that, God will be his judge: but regarding the credit of science, the dignity of an insulted profession, and the rectitude of his ostensible character as an apothecary in a respectable town, he is called upon to step forth from the press, and publicly answer that part of this pamphlet in which he is by *name* concerned. Gossiping and whispers may tarnish the brightest reputation, within the secret circles their influence extends to, unremarked and unpunished: but gross mistakes in medical practice, notorious usurpations on the rights and honours of an academical degree, and unprecedented liberties taken with the initialled *recipe's* of a physician

physician, introduced honourably into a town, WHERE THERE WAS A VACANCY, and who has been more than commonly successful since his introduction, shall be exhibited to public view, whoever be the delinquents, the counsellors, or abettors.

The world has been too long imposed upon by bold or plausible pretensions to scientific knowledge, and medical infallibility: I have detected them in other places with success; I will detect them in Newark, and every where else, to which the comprehensiveness of my views, or the completion of a great medical scheme I have in hand, may carry me.

Should I have made no great fortune, indeed no fortune at all, when I die, I shall carry a richer treasure with me than the consolations resulting from the greatest riches, which is, the reflection that I may have opened the eyes of mankind, by my writings, to the impositions that surround them; and been the humble means, under a propitious Providence, of pointing out methods to lengthen out the life of man, enhance its innocent

enjoyments, by rational ways of restoring and preserving health; and consequently of putting it into the power of the individual, undistracted by lingering pain or sickness, morally to improve his time, and prepare for an eternal change of being and condition, to which all our studies, all our actions, should remotely, or more immediately, be directed.

The friend who took upon him to strengthen Mr. Milnes's doubts, and direct his final judgment, is, by every obligation, bound to assist in defending the apothecary who dared to cancel a physician's prescription, and prescribe in his stead. The abilities of either have not, I believe, as yet, been brought forward to public test. Now is the time, separately, or conjunctly, to prove their medical erudition and experience. Should they be silent, the world will give them *credit* in the articles both of guilt and professional ignorance.—

littus carpere remis,
Tutius est multo quam velum tendere in altum. *

Mr. Milnes and his friend being alarmed at the exhibition of eight grains of *mercurius dulcis*,

dulcis, preparatory to a succeeding strong purgative, proves unquestionable that they are unacquainted with the appropriate powers of medicine, as well as the animal economy; or that they so far doat on the medical superstition and bigotry of former times, as to be voluntarily blind to the practicability of modern improvements and reforms.

Calomel is the mildest and safest of all the mercurial preparations. I have given it for a series of years, from Gr. quatuor, to Gr. viginti, (where I was sure there were obstinate glutinous obstructions of the bowels, accompanied with worms) introductory to some powerful cathartic. It has never deceived me, nor will it ever deceive any ingenious, intelligent practitioner.

Mr. Milnes, with the scriptural disposition of “ straining at a gnat, and swallowing a camel,” could have apprehended danger but in one way from the effect of my pill, which he feloniously secreted, which was slightly to affect the mouth. But the generous reader will be pleased to be told, that such a thing is impossible to happen, during the interval of

fix or seven hours, from the time of taking the pill, which we shall suppose at half after ten o'clock at night, till half after five next morning, when the draught was taken to give it a passage out of the system, through the intestinal conveyance. How illiterate then, absurd, and groundless, Mr. Milnes's and his copartner's apprehensions! I blush for them, and wish they had spared me the pains, and blushed for themselves, before they had the unfortunate temerity to step in between a physician and his patient.

Perhaps forty-eight hours would be scarcely sufficient for eight grains of calomel to be taken into the system, to pass through the several secretions, and to arrive at the salivary glands. We should thus, then, have forty hours on our hands, to upbraid these pretenders to physic, these bastard sons of the divine art of healing! — Even supposing the worst, that the pill, so injuriously treated, had slightly inflamed and swelled the mouth. What then? As many hours as were necessary for it to have this effect, would, with the co-operation of the subsequent purge, be more

more than sufficient to carry both the inflammation and swelling off. In fine, however this matter is canvassed, or in whatever diversities of light and shade it may be beheld, the ignorance, rudeness, and presumption, of Mr. Milnes and his secret associate, (not to mention the moral turpitude they undoubtedly incurred) must stare every one in the face !

Let the liberal reader likewise be informed, that the identical Mr. Milnes, who was terrified out of his senses with regard to the tremendous effects of Mercur. dulcis, Gr. octo, knew, that my little patient had taken six grains before, *with no effect*. Could two simple grains, preponderating on the apothecary's balance, change an innocent negative to a dangerous affirmative ? Fie, fie, upon such egregious trifling ! A pharmacopolist's apprentice, of twelve months standing, ought to be whipt for such folly.

Had Mr. Milnes been acquainted with a becoming propriety and delicacy of conduct, when he was alarmed (an old woman would *not* have been alarmed) at my patient's taking eight grains of *mercurius dulcis*, he

would have prudently intimated his fears to the family, or the physician himself, (I should have thanked him for either) and left the result to *their* determination.

At the interview I had with him, he offered an apology, in self-exculpation, which was making bad *worse*. He said, he was afraid of alarming Mrs. L—E, by acquainting her of my *terrific pill*. But putting her on her guard, when a daughter's life was apparently at stake, as he affected to think, was his duty. Had any one made it his *interest*, would he not have—alarmed her?

But I shall have done with Mr. Milnes, and his consulting brother, with offering each of them a piece of wholesome advice. Though either of them might be my father, yet I feel myself qualified to admonish and instruct both. Let the first be contented with the fortune he has made in his profession. He has no children to provide for, which is the usual apology in favour of that excessive money-making industry I call covetousness. Why then should he go on blundering in a profession, the true comprehensive principles of which he knows nothing

thing of; consequently, by playing the physician, and persisting to superintend the management of diseases, he must, at all times, endanger the lives of mankind, every one of which may be as valuable as his own.

In two remarkable cases, tedious and difficult, in which I have happily succeeded, he has discovered a total want of judgment, an absolute ignorance of medical causes and effects. Two cases, conspicuous to all the world, having occurred within four months, the period of my residence in Newark, how many may have occurred, similarly mistaken, in the course of twenty or thirty years past, the probable period of *his* practice! In God's name, then, let him no longer intrude on the province of the physician, which he has no more right to do, than an attorney to plead at the bar; and, with regard to the other branches of his business, let him leave them to the young and active of his brethren.

There are some such in Newark, who will thank him for it, as being a piece of justice, both to them and the world. The world will not suffer by his retiring from business, but

rather will gain much, if he makes a proper use of the fortune in his power. Spending it in daily acts of benevolence and compassion to the poor and distressed (and many such surround him) is the proper way of using it; money, otherwise, is an idol and a curse. He has laboured hard to lay up treasures upon earth, “ where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; ” let him, in future, lay up treasures in heaven, “ where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. ”

I will lay before him some pointed passages of scripture against riches; for I have studied the Bible, as well as the medical schools. These scriptures may, one day, be a witness against him, and, as such, I recommend them to his most serious consideration. All men, indeed, may profit of them, as the ardour of making or loving money, is the epidemical vice of the times,

“ How hardly shall they that have riches, enter into the kingdom of God ! It is easier for a cable to go through the eye of a needle, than

than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The love of money is the root of all evil, which some coveting after, have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. They that will be rich, fall into temptation and a snare, into many foolish and hurtful lusts, that drown men in destruction and perdition."

As to the other gentleman,* who did not think it beneath him to attempt robbing me

of

** I had a letter of introduction to this very person, was politely and civilly received by him, and, till lately, seemed to have his confidence. He commended highly the delicacy of my conduct to the late Dr. Halilay, upon my coming to Newark. The first visit he paid, after a long confinement with the gout, was to me, in return, as he flatteringly told me, for my many calls upon him during his illness. He likewise, at his going away, honoured me with the assurance that he should frequently give me a morning call, seeing me a reading, literary man. All this was highly pleasing and acceptable. What have I done since to forfeit all?—True, I*

of my professional honour, by confederating with an apothecary in town to suppress my prescription, what shall I say ? Merely to let the world know, that he possesses a genteel fortune, consequently, is under no temptation to solicit or procure patients ; that he has been out of practice, as an apothecary, for, I believe, near thirty years, which altogether dis-
qualifies

have not consulted him with regard to my patients, nor given him, at any time, a narrative of their cases. Hinc illæ lacrymæ.—I never could be so mean, I confess, as to purchase his friendship at so dear a rate.—It was a part of my inaugural oath, at all times to support the chastity and honour of the profession, and not divulge its secrets, except in regular consultation. Beside, in the present instance, by acting contrary, I should have been inconsistent with myself, respecting my conduct to the apothecaries ; for that gentleman, notwithstanding Fortune has generously handed him from behind the counter, is to be considered in no higher light than they, with reference to general learning and science, or the clinical superintendence of diseases.

qualifies him for so difficult, studious, and morally responsible a profession as that of physic, the serious business of superintending mens lives ; I say again, merely to let the world know these particulars, should seem to be the same thing as proving him quite unfit for the comprehensive knowledge, or rational practice of physic. Let him, therefore, henceforth, keep to his magistratical chair, where the world allows him to be useful, and not venture to seat himself in the medical, where he can never be useful in a town just now glutted with *the faculty* ; nay, from whence he runs the manifest hazard of doing mischief. I myself can produce two cases, since my arrival in Newark, in which he, Mr. Milnes's participator in a *cruel design*, has proved himself grossly mistaken.

I must speak out, I will speak out. These two gentlemen have forced me to speak out. The lives of the people, falling under the care of officious self-confidence, or palpable ignorance, are of too much value and importance, as, in future, to be exposed to imminent dangers, from a false delicacy, a mistaken reverence

verence for the common forms of civility preventing the world being explicitly apprized of these dangers. What are those gentlemen, nay, what are any specific number of gentlemen, let their rank or exterior be what it may, in comparison with society at large, the preservation of numberless lives, on the enlarged rational scale of practice !

How many thousands die every year, especially in childhood, and the world know nothing about them, except the apothecaries, pouring in their drugs without either *indication, plan, or design* ! We should have medical coroner's inquests to investigate to the bottom this most interesting and *awful* affair. The scheme is practicable by the legislature, were it not now busily employed in destroying the lives of men, instead of saving them.

Such an institution, once established, would overawe the swarms of practitioners that infest this kingdom, like locusts, but are infinitely more destructive than they. — Locusts but prey on the grass of the field: Doctors (for they are all so called) prey on the lives of thousands. — Since I came here, cases have come

come under my management, which, treated in the common way, I am convinced, would have turned out hopeless or fatal : They have done well in my hands. — Shall such things be hid in a corner, out of courtesy or compliment to particular persons ? No, they shall not, whilst I live, and am able to speak, or to write. I pledge myself ever to be the people's friend. If they do not stand by me, I will persevere notwithstanding ; if they do, we shall be together invincible.

Let the people, therefore, give no credit to, and have no dependance on, either physicians or apothecaries, who are known to give large quantities of drugs ; nor let either be trusted, if too professionally intimate with each other. I evidently see a combination every where, between these brethren of a trade, to throw money into each other's hands, and get rich as fast as they can ; I have seen it, and blushed for the honour and chastity of a profession, second to none for importance and usefulness. Should this professional gossiping go the length of an apothecary carrying a physician to pa-
f tients

tients to whom he has not been sent for by the families, or of industriously and officiously introducing him to his friends and acquaintances, *that* apothecary does it for his own emolument ; he has his pecuniary designs in it, and should be marked and frustrated.

A physician of real talents, and genuine worth, will succeed in any place, by the slow, but sure, process of time, and success in business. One remarkable case, treated with skill and good fortune, will ensure his establishment, and open to him a wider introduction into families, and a discerning neighbourhood, than the busy interference of any apothecary.

I have always made it a matter of conscience, never to be on any other than distant civil terms with my brethren behind the counter, unless I found them, which I sometimes have, to be men of more than common abilities, or of virtue. When this is the case, no degree of intimacy will ever issue in any thing but credit and honour to both, and certain advantage to the public. There is a seductive influence in too familiar professional connections, reciprocally

procally lucrative to both parties, which, imperceptibly, and, as it were, by habit and fashion, will lead men, even of nice moral attention to themselves as individuals, from the straight correct line of conduct.

When I came to Newark, I attended less to the apothecaries than any other class of men in the town ; I did not wish to get business through *that medium*. I remained some weeks scarcely known to be in the town, except by those gentlemen to whom I had letters of recommendation ; and when I became gradually to be known, it was not through the medium of the apothecaries, but of *successful practice*, the only legitimate basis for any physician's encouragement or reputation. Every other is that of a *faction*, which, as soon as possible, should be disarmed and humbled, when so momentous a stake is to be played for, as the lives of the people.

Impedit ira animum ne possit cernere verum.

Whatever physician is introduced into a place, and supported there by the apothecaries, he *must* be their friend, otherwise they will treat him as they have treated me. There is logical justness in the assertion, and the thing itself is obvious to common discernment, and therefore submitted, without reserve, to the good sense of the public. The public are infinitely more concerned in the issue, than I can possibly be. The contest simply is, whether the good people of Newark shall chuse their own physician, *in whose hands they are to trust their lives*; or have one crammed upon their opinions by the apothecaries, as they are wont to cram their abominable drugs down the throats of their patients, to the certain destruction of many, the relief of not one in an hundred, and to the horror and disgust of all.

When I first commenced business here, the apothecaries were my most obliging friends, and invited me to their tables and card-parties: when they found out I prescribed few drugs, but, at the same time, did not fail to cure or relieve

relieve my patients, they became, except one, my enemies; and, what will make the knowing reader smile, from the plainness and simplicity of my prescriptions, they inferred I must be an ignorant physician, and unacquainted with the manner of writing prescriptions. Had they been deep and comprehensive judges, and nobly disinterested in their views, they would have formed a quite different judgment, as simplicity in the forms of prescribing, and unity of design in the conception and treatment of diseases, are characteristics of a physician's excellence, and faithful guarantees of his success and fame.

An apprentice of four years standing in a shop, a perfect tyro even in apothecary knowledge, will write you a prescription as long as one's arm, by looking over the officinal files, and as *secundam artem* as any London physician of the first rank. What then? All such formularies are but the mere trumpery of a profession, the learned non-significants of colleges and schools?—Long prescriptions, however highly renowned the articles which

compose them, are short comforts, and short lives to the people. If a physician cannot cure a patient with few drugs, happily chosen, is it to be supposed he can with a number? Whoever thinks so, deserves to be punished by swallowing the many instead of the few.

The physician who orders a multiplicity of drugs from the shop, is not truly a physician, but an apothecary. The degree he carries in his pocket, is a disgrace to him, and amounts to nothing more respectable than a patent royal, in conjunction with the pharmacopolist, to monopolize and dispose of drugs. The travelling emperic, distributing his hand-bills in markets and fairs, is as respectable a character. If the physician loses his patient, the number and bulk of his prescriptions, are so many filed witnesses, so many registered *momento mori's* against him. If he has been chaste and sparing in his prescriptions, and yet his patient dies, the just conclusion is, that he has not been *destroyed* by drugs, a matter of felicitation in this drugen age.

If

If one medicine of a sort does not relieve a patient, an hundred will not. Now, there are but five sorts of medicines in the shop of any essential use; I speak from knowledge, and fifteen years *disinterested* experience. Those I mean are such as—*vomit*, *purge*, *sweat*, *blister*, or *procure sleep*. Give me these, and the contents of all the shops in England beside may be poured into the streets, for me. They are otherwise a multiplication of Pandora's box, teeming with evils, with only one alleviation, that some articles are less mischievous than others. To be explicit, as an honest man ought to be, to make every reader, except medical ones, as learned as myself, and to knock in the head the bold pretensions of systematic and professional empiricism, I would restrict prescription to *eight* grand officinals.

Let the reader be amazed—he ought, and indignantly so—when he is told that *Cantharides*, *Tarter Emetic*, *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Aloes*, *Sena*, *Falap*, *Salts*, and *Opium*, compose all the virtue, all the efficacy, of the apothecary's shop. The rest are either inferior

rior duplicates of these, or fallacious unknown alteratives. With these, without scruple, I class the *Peruvian Bark*, that idol nostrum of the faculty, and systematic deceiver of the world. I have tried it repeatedly and repeatedly, but, with the academical kiss of a Judas, *it has always deceived me.* Oak bark is as good in every medical intention. They are both but simple bitters, and only do good as such.

All bitters are friendly to the stomach. As to this egregious drug's astringent quality, as such it does harm, instead of good, as all astringents do, without exception, acting on the stomach and intestinal canal, where alone they can act. I have cured agues of all descriptions without it. The innumerable histories of the ague, said to be cured by the Bark, are full of fallacy. The medicines which preceded or accompanied the administration of it, effected the cure, not this almost adored specific. If it have the virtues attributed to it, it will cure independent of every other concomitant help; if not, then is it an imposition upon the world, and the concomitants

tants have all the merit of curing the ague, when it is cured.

Mankind would seem in love with being deceived, or else they could not be so often and so easily deceived as they are. A medicine which requires a medicine to give it efficacy, is no medicine at all. This applies to mineral waters, as well as to the Bark. They must have their preparatives, to a display of their wonderful virtues. The easy world believes it, not considering, that the preparatives effect the relief, when it is effected, which, GOD knows, is but seldom, and not the waters. Yet, upon the assumption that the reverse of this fact is true, the medical gentry of Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Buxton, Matlock, &c. &c. grow rich. I am equally astonished at the folly and credulity of mankind, and the universal disposition of my brethren to take advantage of that folly and credulity !

In so poor a light do I consider the *Peruvian nostrum*, that even after fevers, &c. I never exhibit it in any form as a strengthener; yet my patients all recover speedily. Nothing

can strengthen without nourishing. Does the Bark nourish ? Yes, it does : it nourishes the apothecary instead of the convalescent. He buys it for six or seven shillings a pound, (and, for the most part, a spurious substitute for the Bark) and retails it for seventeen or eighteen. Thousands will be my witnesses of its price and inefficacy, who have taken it in large quantities repeatedly, with as little effect as if they had taken so much wormwood or tansey, which may be gathered for nothing ; but who had to discharge swinging bills for *repetatur's* of draughts, decoctions, pills, bolus's, turbid, or ponderous, with the *virtues* of this omnipotent officinal.

The leading article of the alterative class being, to all intents and purposes, a notorious *cheat* ; the remainder, a numerous costly tribe, deserve no consideration, and shall have as little notice. Let me have therefore the eight articles already enumerated, to proportion and administer as circumstances and symptoms shall determine me, and I pledge myself to cure all disorders curable by art, or, short of that, to relieve all relievable by art,

art, provided patients are amenable to rules.—What a reform! what a simplification! Fifteen hundred articles, which make up the dispensatory, reduced to eight!!!

It will be no argument, in reply to me, that I differ from the world. All general reformatiōns; all great accessions of light and knowledge, have happened by *differing* from the world. *Copernicus* differed from the world, when he settled the solar system as it now stands, widely illuminated from the centre to the circumference. *Luther* differed from the world, when he laid the first corner stone, which supports the magnificent edifice of the Reformation. *Harvey* differed from the world, when he demonstrated the true circulation of the blood in the human body. Sir *Isaac Newton* differed from the world, when he surprised it with his admirable doctrine of light and colours, and explained the sublime laws of attraction and repulsion. And, to descend to modern facts generally known, Mr. *Sutton* differed from the world, when he instituted his new mode of treating the small-pox, to the salvation of thousands.

Physicians in general, differed from the world, when they adopted the present cool airy method of treating fevers, instead of the old barbarous one of curtain-imprisonment, and foul air. And, to have done with instances, every man must differ from his neighbour, if he would be wiser and better than his neighbour. — My differing therefore from all my brethren, with the powers I feel to defend my cause, is a presumption in my favour.

The foregoing narrative accounts, in one way, for the ill usage I have received from apothecaries in general. Viewing disorders through a plain simple medium, and, for the most part, confining myself to the *eight specified articles*,* were enough to raise suspicions

* *As to cordial waters, spirits, tinctures, juleps, confections, &c. which medical dram-drinkers are so fond of taking, under cover of a doctor,—the more simple cordials, consequently more efficacious, such as good old wine, or genuine uncompounded spirits, especially the latter, with or without water, according to exigencies,*

pictions of my abilities in the minds of men who judge of things by *fashions*, and of diseases by *names*. Perhaps, to account for it farther, I may throw into the estimate a certain unassumingness of manners, plain unphysical-like exterior, and sedentary, domestic turn, in which I glory, but which have been considered as proofs *against* me, or as sufficient to authorize the opinion, that there was, according to the vulgar phrase, *little in me*. Such people never weighed the meaning of the following line.

“ *qua flumen placidum forsan latet altius unda.* ”

The

exigencies, are vastly preferable; I do not mean in the way of a habit, but occasionally as medicines acting cordially.—With respect to the other numerous classes of strengtheners, bracers, tonics, sweetners, demulcents, alteratives, aperients, balsamics, solvents, detergents, desiccatives, alexipharmics, anti-hysterics, anti-epileptics, anti-spasmodics, anti-this, anti-that, &c. &c. they are the learned lumber of fastidious art, the mystic fooleries of dreaming prescription!

The generous reader will forgive my talking so much of *myself*. There is more energy and earnestness in using the *first* person, otherwise I should have addressed the public in the *third*. The reader will the more readily do this on account of the pains I have taken to guard him against the fallacy of prescription, and the common futile administration of drugs. Could I point out a sure method to shorten law suits, and lessen their number, mankind would think themselves much obliged to me, and adopt the method as soon as pointed out: Health, and the preservation of life, are objects of much higher consideration than property, as the former give value and zest to the latter, which it could not have otherwise. I have therefore truly stated the general impotency of drugs, especially all but the *active* kind, and whose operations are *visible*; as well as pointed out the dangers arising to the constitution from the mistakes and ignorance of our common practitioners: thus have I guaranteed to him the possession of the most valuable concern in this world, and without which every other

insults

up

insults us with its blessings, and teases us with its comforts, I mean *health*.

I am encouraged to persevere in the hitherto untrodden path of medical reformation, by the success my treatise on the gout has had ; I do not mean among the critics, but in a much more honourable way, among the *diseased* and *gouty*.---I have received many letters informing me of the good it has been the means of doing, and is likely to do, couched in genteel terms of grateful civility, particularly one from a place so remote as the Orkney isles, written by a Rev. Clergyman. This is quite a reward sufficient for me, notwithstanding the imperfect and unfair manner in which the monthly critics have reviewed it. *Imperfect*, because they omitted the principal part of their duty, which was, to give quotations from the pamphlet, sufficiently ample for the public to form their judgment upon ; and *unfair*, because, respecting the author, they have presumed, some of them, to assert what they had no authority for.* Notwithstanding

* A second edition of the treatise will clear up this matter.

standing therefore the reviewers, the sneers of indifference affected to be thrown upon the publication by the apothecaries, as well as many of their more learned brethren, and by some of the bigoted clergy, the least amiable part of that venerable body, it has slowly grown into consideration, and been perused, I am assured, by great numbers, with pleasure and profit.

It indeed contains medical truths of the first magnitude, in plain and bold terms expressed, and I still must think, the only *true* doctrine of the gout, and the method of treating it, ever published. Sydenham's account of it dazzles and confounds with the lustre of splendid description, and pompous arrangement. With great opportunities of observing and treating the disease, I never met with the *Sydenhamic gout*. It is the brat of a luxurious imagination, and fanciful pen. His *data* are most of them assumed, and the disorder he so elaborately describes, was either *made* so by preposterous treatment, by a practice running riot in the wilds and labyrinths of theory ; or else the gout of that excellent

excellent man's days is not the gout of ours. I know of no solution but the alternative. The name of Sydenham is an *ignes fatuus* to the faculty, as well as to others through that medium. He is the medical idol-god of our literary journalists, and systematic physicians ; while the true god of physic resides enthroned, but unadored, in the temple of the understanding. One false deity, whether in divinity or medicine, gives birth to a thousand false worshippers.

As a putative father likewise of modern physic, Sydenham's name fæcundates our several royal *Alma Mater's*, and yearly a new progeny is brought forth by the obstetric aid of Diploma's ; each a striking likeness of the parent, long since fallen asleep as a *natural* one. This academical procreation, overspreading the kingdom with professional sturdy beggars, will have a sort of eternity, till some daring spirit, some intrepid witness, shall stand before the judgment seat of the public, and prove, to the conviction and satisfaction of all, that these *Alma Mater's* are no better than venerable *harlots*, got scientifically with child by *Mammon*,

the wanton god of this world, assuming the personification and name of Sydenham ; and that all their numerous family, swarming in every city and town, are a spurious breed, imposing upon the good natured world ! Mine be the ambition to stand forth as that *true and faithful witness*. Should I fail, this be my motto, *in magnis voluisse sat est.*

To step off allegorical ground, I can assure the reader that, when I left the college, sixteen years ago, I thought myself a better physician than I think myself now. Then, crammed to the throat with hypothetical infallibility, and inshrining the Professors, whom I had attended, and who sent me forth to the wide world with Hippocratico-Papal confidence, as a kind of physical *penates* in my bosom, I flattered myself, like many a raw bantling of the university now looking out for an establishment, that I could cure diseases with a *look* or a *touch*. But when I subsided from the professional dogmatism of theory, to the unequivocal line of practice, I soon discovered myself to be—what the Pope of Rome is at this day—a deceiver and an imposter.

But

But I did not long remain such. Bred up with the highest reverence for Revealed Religion (for which my reverence still increases) and, of course, for *moral responsibility*, I suddenly recollected myself on the common highway of prescription, and struck into a by-path, where, surrounded with light and glory (a transfiguration unknown to the schools) I met the Goddess of Health, wandering by herself, awfully serene in her deportment, majestic in her gait, but divinely benevolent and gracious in her aspect. The beauties of nature grew more beautiful at her approach. Each herb, each flower, each fruit, poured out the essence of its sweets, as the presence of her augustness surrounded them, offering up to the undiscrivable divinity of the place, the fragrant incense of vegetable life : While the heavens, looking at her through the medium of the sun, moon, and stars, brightly benign, placidly resplendent, seemed to be created for her alone ! No mortal being had she to converse with, but, without doubt, Celestials, of the first order, wafted on the clouds, streaming in drapery of azure and

gold, daily and nightly visited her, pitying the folly, and deplored the obstinacy of man.

I paused, I hesitated, I trembled. With the dignified carriage of her high original, but the condescending affability of smiling familiar goodness, she thus addressed me, as if generously feeling for my confusion and distress, “ Wherefrom, stranger, comest, and whether travellest thou? These sequestered solitudes are seldom trod by human step: say, stranger, what is thy business, what thy destination? ”—Recovered from embarrassment by the benignity of her appearance, and the heavenly mildness of her address, I answered, or essayed to answer, that, “ tired and disgusted with the public road of medical science, and the arts of prescribing to the maladies of man, I struck into the very first path-way that led me out of it, to have leisure for thought and contemplative enquiry, how I might alleviate the miseries of mankind, and relieve, if I could not cure, their diseases, without acting with or humouring a party intent upon growing rich by these distresses, and these diseases.”

diseases." "Your plan is humane and generous, and surprises me," she replied, with a radiant look of approbation and encouragement, which acted like inspiration on my soul; "Heaven will prosper you, and here are your instructions," presenting me with a schedule fairly and beautifully written. I received it, bowed to the ground, and bowed again, but had not utterance to express my admiration and gratitude. She at once perceived the sentimental conflict I sustained, and left me with a look which seemed to say, "Stranger, meet me here again, if at a loss for advice and instruction." I looked and looked, till I lost her divine figure from the distance that intervened, and, emboldened by the paper in my hand, returned to the road I had abandoned from disappointment and despair, resolved to conduct myself by its precepts, in the face of every difficulty, and opposition.

The reader and I have again met on metaphorical ground. If he understands me not in the foregoing figurative representation, this is my meaning in language which he knows.

Till I left the guidance of schools and systems, and acted upon my own acquired fund of knowledge and experience, I met with many unaccountable miscarriages in practice. Though the world, and the faculty where I resided, seemed perfectly satisfied with my care and skill in such cases, and that every thing was that could be done for my unfortunate patients, yet I was far from being pleased with myself; nay, so humbled and distressed have I been, on some such occasions of ill success, that I more than once *almost* formed the resolution of quitting the practical part of the profession altogether, and getting into another line of life, where my sensibility might not run the hazard of so many shocks.

One consideration alone prevented me. In the very instances where I miscarried, I had used all the favourite medicines of the shops, the most approved forms of the Pharmacopoeia appropriate to such and such disorders. It struck me at length that, doubtless, these medicines had by much a higher character than they deserved, and that my brethren, of every

every description, relied too implicitly upon them. I soon had pleasing reason to be convinced, that the remark was just. I continued to adopt new ideas of disorders, as they happened to come under my care, and new modes of treating them. My success became equal to my fondest expectations, and I was encouraged to continue in a profession which seemed capable of many and great reforms.

As already noticed, I have succeeded these many years in proportion as I thought for myself in medical matters, and departed from the axioms of the schools, many of which are absurd, and some absolutely false. So total almost has been the revolution in my opinions, concerning the nature of diseases, and the methods to cure or relieve them, that the rational reader will be gratified when he is told, the very Dissertation which obtained me my degree, I now differ from, both in the *ratio symptomatum*, and *methodus medendi*.

I wrote *De Diabete*, and took much pains with it; yet my own doctrine there laid down I now think erroneous, notwithstanding it is the doctrine of the schools to this day, and satisfied

satisfied the Professors who examined me in public. This is a curious fact, and tends much to raise just suspicions of the grounds and *rationale* of modern practice, which, while it continues to lean on the authority of *names*, and ancient modes of prescribing, without passing through the illuminated medium of the individual's understanding, and *successful* experience, will blunder on in the eventual breaches of the sixth commandment, without intending or wishing to break it.

Hence it is, so many sudden deaths happen in the world. The newspapers are full of them, and so far proclaim aloud the inefficacy of medical art. Men, dear to their families, and their country, cut off in the middle of their days! Seen to day, in the senate, at the bar, on the exchange, or in the pulpit, and before a subsequent revolution of the moon, announced among the dead by the public prints! Confident I am that seven tenths of these would have been saved from the grave, by bold, resolute methods of drawing the attack from the vital parts, to the surface, or extremities, which is practicable almost in every

every case, instead of trusting to the tardy, precarious aids of officinal compositions, and keeping up the solemn farce of learned consultations over sick beds, where a number of grave pompous men meet to witness each other's obdurate systematic faith, and want of success ! I speak out, because the interests of mankind require it, and because there is an impression of truth of what I write made upon my mind, which I can no more resist, than the ray of light which strikes upon my eye.

The truth of my grand position is farther illustrated, by the numbers of invalids ordered to the water-drinking places. Why ordered ? Because their physicians mistook, and consequently must have mismanaged their cases. Every case likely to be even slightly relieved at such places, might be certainly cured at home, were the attendant physician a master of his business. I am astonished and grieved to hear people complaining of this and the other malady, notwithstanding they repeatedly have had what is called, the *best advice*. The truth is, it was *bad advice*, and their respective cases must all have been *mistaken*.—But a

future publication of mine will enlarge on these very interesting topics. Meantime, the reader's patience shall be no longer tried, than in attending to *three cases*, slightly touched, in which I was concerned, but which have been grossly misrepresented to the world, much to my disadvantage as a professional man.

C A S E F I R S T.

MRS. S—n was one of my earliest patients in Newark. Upon being sent for, I found her in a most distressed situation. She was greatly swelled and oppressed ; her breathing difficultly performed, and only in an erect posture ; nights sleepless and unrefreshing ; and her days spent in uneasiness and pain ; the natural evacuations greatly interrupted ; her inclination for food scarce any ; and a general feel of coldness, feebleness, and torpitude all over her ; with a small, weak, unequal pulse. Previous to the complaints which rendered my attendance necessary, she had, in general, to an advanced period

period of life, enjoyed a serene uninterrupted state of health, living mostly on a vegetable diet, milk, pudding, fruits, &c.

The indications were obvious, external stimulus, and cathartics of the warm forcing kind, with generous support from wine and cordials. I ordered blisters to the inside of each thigh immediately above the knee, and sufficiently opened the passage of the bowels. She was dropsical, with a slight constitutional tendency to the gout. I early mentioned tapping to her friends, but was overruled. My object *then* was to bring down the water to the extremities, and give my patient a chance for the gout in her feet. Both I effected by the blisters already mentioned, and two additional ones I found myself under the necessity of having applied to the upper part of each foot.

Her limbs, before small and well shaped, became immoderately swelled. Along with this aqueous distention, she had evident twinges of the gout, which sometimes moved upwards, and attacked her shoulder and side. The blisters had a great discharge, and had

my patient consented to continue them for a reasonable time longer, I have no doubt but the consequences would have been fortunate. But, being little accustomed all her life to medical applications of the kind, her resolution failed her, and the sores were of course dried up. The intelligent reader may well anticipate the result:—increased general swelling; variety of erratic pains; renewed difficulty of breathing; costiveness of body; obstructed urine; and all those multiplications of distress attendant on a case where nature could do nothing for itself, and art was interdicted by strong prejudices and habits of life, contracted from enjoying health for a series of years independent of medical discipline.

At this crisis, nothing a-doing, and nothing allowed to be done, a near relation of Mrs. S—n's suddenly thought of my frustrated idea of tapping. Her surgeon was applied to in order to ascertain the locality of water in the abdomen.* His opinion was positive that

* *This opinion, however, was an arbitrary one; he did not examine accurately, assisted by a second*

that there was none.—But this lady had taken up a misapprehension, that the operation of **abdominal**

a second of the profession, whom I recommended to be called in. Nothing short of manual examination, when the patient was in a recumbent posture, and uncovered, could ascertain the fact. Three circumstances rendered it to me certain that there was water in the abdomen, or cellular membrane; her bulk, unwieldiness, and incapacity of turning in bed; her laborious breathing; and intense feeling of internal cold, insomuch that, in the hottest days, she had a fire in the room, and required warm bricks in bed to keep her blood from absolute stagnation.—A remark, equally illiterate and untrue, was made on the occasion. It was rumoured abroad, and believed by those who are ready to believe any thing, that if she had been tapped, death would have ensued in so many hours. But the perforation of the abdominal integuments, in bulky or dropsical people, can never be dangerous, as the cellular membrane, distended with water or fat, forms an interstice between the skin and intestines, several inches deep, beyond the reach of the instrument.

abdominal tapping would evacuate the water in Mrs. S—n's legs. The mistake was not unnatural, and we all soon became satisfied with the non-performance of the *paracentesis*.

Tapping at first was certainly indicated, and would, I am convinced, have materially relieved my patient, and, latterly, an examination into the expedience of it, upon a hint suggested by an affectionate anxious sister, was discreet and perfectly professional. The Lady's case being an ascites primarily, became anasarcal from the operation of the blisters. These two species of dropsical affusion, I have known convertible into each other, by external applications. The latter, however, will, for the most part, take place of, and relieve the former, by the bold and persevering use of blisters to the thighs and legs, and is, in general, preferable to tapping, which offers but a temporary expedient for relief, though I mentioned it early among the accustomed remedies in such cases as my patient's.

Two surgeons got the management of her swelled limbs, who, to use a Liturgic phrase,
"left

“ left undone those things which they ought to have done, and did those things which they ought not to have done.” Notwithstanding I strongly recommended scarification or puncturing, as the blisters were not allowed to be continued, both these gentlemen declined it, from apprehensions of the legs getting into bad conditioned sores. Groundless, undoubtedly, were such apprehensions, as she had no less than four blisters discharging for some time in different places, without leaving any such alarming appearance behind them, which unquestionably they were as likely to do as any scarifying, or puncturing lancet.

Instead of external stimulus and drain,* these two professional men used hot fomentations

* *A drain by the legs has saved many valuable lives, as preventing, or drying it up, has destroyed many. Two Reverend men, with whose generous friendship I am honoured, owe their continuance on earth, to wish and do good to mankind, to the occasional discharges of their legs;*

ations and poultices for some time, till they were forced to lay them aside from experiencing no advantage from them, (advantage never can attend either in any hydropical case) and seeing the great trouble and inconvenience they occasioned. Then, indeed, to do the attendant surgeon justice, he got the better of his fears, and ventured on successions of punctures,

legs ; I mean the Rev. William Smyth of Coleraine, Ireland, brother to the late General Smyth ; and the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Bath, son to the late most apostolic bishop of Sodor and Man. I mention these as being conspicuous persons, in order to reconcile others to one of the happiest expedients in medical science, to lengthen out the life of man. Were there is any swelling, or oozing sore, in the limbs of persons advanced in life, let both be encouraged. Open the first by blisters made perpetual ; and encourage the last by dressings of the epispastic ointment investing the ulcerated or exuding part. It is surprising what good effects these applications will always have, attended with no danger, provided the constitution be powerfully supported by generous regimen.

punctures, and slight incisions. They had a surprising effect. Great quantities of water trickled from every sore, and called for farther applications of the lancet, or the knife. It was used with tolerable freedom, insomuch that the oozing or transudation became constant, to the extent, I should suppose, even moderately speaking, of a pint at an avarage every twenty-four hours ; which, for six weeks duration, must have amounted to a large quantity.

The sores put on no sort of bad appearance, which confirmed the fears, at first entertained, had no just foundation. Indeed Mrs. S—n always lived so correctly abstemious, that her habit of body was perfectly sound, notwithstanding the dropsical complaints. As to internal medicines, taken such a length of time as to do good, the administration of them was rendered impossible from the Lady's unconquerable aversion to swallow any. An aversion of the kind so determined and fixed, I had never seen before.

One of her surgeons talked highly in praise of medicines to correct the watery tendency
k of

of her juices, and brace the solids. Even supposing she could have taken them to the greatest amount, what could they have done at her time of life? As well might an architect renew the arches and pillars of an old temple, by white-washing them. Tonics and bracers are words of sound and pomp, and nothing else. Many by depending on tonics and bracers, have weakened and reduced themselves to their graves.

Nothing can either brace or strength, but what gives accretion of parts, and fresh renewed juices to support the various secretions; what I mean is generous living, good meat and drink. Every thing else is the conceit of system, and the technic cant of a profession. Some practitioners dream of drawing together the living nerves and fibres mechanically, so that they shall have additional contractile powers, in the same way that curriers, by means of bark emersions, act upon the *dead* *hide*.

I should not have insisted so much on this case (a case of long attendance, wherein I had oftener occasion to feel for and pity the distresses

distresses of a worthy character, than opportunities effectually to relieve them) had not Mr. Milnes assumed the liberty to introduce it, at the interview. I indeed immediately stopt him, as the mention of it was extraneous to the business of the meeting, as well as impertinent in the manner it was mentioned. It has likewise been often started in conversation, I am told, disreputably for me, by those who are my enemies, *they know not for what.* I have faithfully described it, and the history laid before the reader, cannot but do me honour with the discerning and candid few, whose opinion I alone hold in any estimation. General practice, likewise, if not fastidious, jaundiced, or prejudged, may pick up a useful hint or two from the narrative.

N. B. Since writing the above, the swelling in my patient's legs, partly humour, and partly water, totally disappeared; she became coma-somnilent, and delirious, by turns; continued so for several days, (notwithstanding the operation of a blister between the shoulders, repeated *enema's* thrown up, &c.) was sustained during all that time by milk and

water only, being incapable of taking any thing else ; and, at length, made *that happy change* which is never unwelcome to the good, but, to the good in hopeless bodily distress, always particularly welcome !

Dii celant homines, ut vivere durent,
Quam sit dulce mori ! —————

C A S E S E C O N D.

MR. B—k, a gentleman in the neighbourhood, was seized with an effusion of blood from the nose, which alarmed the family, and occasioned me to be sent for. His apothecary and surgeon accompanied me. The bleeding had stopt before I reached the house, but all were uneasy and apprehensive of its return. I made general enquiries about his usual mode of living, and the constitutional disorder, if any, he was subject to. This last question I make an indispensable one in all cases, as no physician can institute a safe or certain mode of treatment without it, whatever may be his erudition or sagacity.

I found

I found he had often been attacked with the gout, and some times with the bleeding hemorrhoids, and had reason to expect a return of the former at *that* time. My path was in a direct line before me. The first thing that suggested itself was, to bring down the gout by my favourite method—*blisters*—to the upper part of the feet. His constitution, together with his great age, and the state of symptoms in general, rendered it improbable that, without external stimulus of the most forcing kind, it could be fixt in its old situation. My patient's pulse was strong, sedate, and remarkably slow, under sixty in a minute ; he had no thirst, nor any other characteristic of a fever ; he was costive, and his legs and feet uncommonly cold, so that there was a necessity for having hot bricks constantly in contact with them.

Determined by such appearances, I would not allow him to be bled (a promiscuous operation full of mischief in most cases) nor to have any emptying or cooling medicines. I ordered some draughts rather cordial, and, now and then, small brandy and water drinks.

The *vis vitæ* was low, and the sanguinous circulation unusually slow and torpid. I had nothing to fear from any returns of the hemorrhage, as it was afterwards found, and acknowledged by the surgeon, that simple compression and bandage alone were sufficient to keep it in check. My whole dependance was upon the effect of the blisters giving the old gentleman a fit of the gout, being confident, that the swelling and inflammation, of one or both legs, would be a *metastasis* favourable to him, but, particularly, might divert the constitutional push or tendency of the humours to the upper extremity, and thereby give an opportunity to the vessels of the nose to collapse, and the nose itself, which was found in a swelled, tender, ulcerated state, (the cause to me unknown) to heal. This theory, and practice, stand upon the broadest basis, will bear the strictest examination, and shall be supported against *any* opponent who may think himself called upon to disprove it.

The blisters were extremely tardy in discharging, though they had risen tolerably well, owing to the low degree of animal heat and

and vital powers, which I wished by all means to support, as being the physician's best friend in such a case, and without which, he must ever be the blind dupe of conjecture and guess.

Meantime, a recurrence of the bleeding happened, which again alarmed my patient's family. I was sent for in a hurry, as well as the surgeon. —— Owing to an awkward mistake, I was believed not to be at home when I really was. —— No enquiry was made for me else where, but the gentleman's own son dispatched immediately to Lincoln for a physician, though the case was merely a chirurgical one, respecting the hemorrhage and bad condition of the nose, and altogether out of the physician's department. As I informed the reader before, proper dressings, and simple compress, were all that were necessary. What had the physician to do with these, more than with an ulcer on the leg, attended with a local erosion of some neighbouring blood-vessel, and consequent hemorrhage?

Before Dr. P—— came, without my concurrence or approbation, as yet the attendant responsible

responsible physician, nitre and cooling articles were ordered ; and, as if my patient had not already been reduced sufficiently low by the frequent loss of blood from the nose, in consequence of the bandages loosening or slipping aside, the surgeon took away *more* from him by the lancet ! He alledged in self-justification, that he found Mr. B—k, upon waiting on him *without me*, in a HIGH FEVER. But a high fever from the very opposite condition of the body, which was his condition when I left him the day before, with no accession of cause whatever, I scruple not to affirm, was utterly impossible. Beside, the repeated spontaneous bleedings at the nose effectually tended to keep down the fever, had there been any existing disposition towards it. Farther, I professionally assert, that bleedings at the nose never happen in high fevers, except sometimes, which is very rarely, at the critical turns ; but how could it be a critical turn, which is always regularly preceded by a *duration* of the disorder, when the alledged fever had not *begun* the day before, at which time I visited him ! ! — I am almost ashamed to mention these things, but have been forced to do

do it, from a proper sense of the professional cruelty with which I have been treated, and to convince the public on what a poor foundation, and stock of scientific knowledge, the common practice of this country is conducted. Indeed, I need not say *this country*, for in many other places where I have been on the medical look-out, I have met with similar instances of false data, and bad management grounded on them.

On Mr. B—k's return from Lincoln, he waited on me, and requested me to be in readiness to accompany Dr. P—— to his father's, who promised to be in Newark next day. Next day he came, without any intimation of his arrival directly to me. He staid all night in town, and paid *my* patient two visits, but no message whatever to me as the *prior physician*.* What account he received respecting

* *Whether Dr. P—— knew this circumstance, I cannot take upon me positively to say. From the candour and propriety of his behaviour however, when we attended a respectable gentleman of Newark in consultation twice before, I should be disposed to think he did not.*

respecting my manner of treating Mr. B—k, (supposing my name to have been mentioned) I know not. I am confident it was an imperfect and mutilated one, unjust to me, as it was inadequate to enable the doctor to comprehend my plan, or intentions.

What he may have ordered from the apothecary's, for my patient, I am equally ignorant of, nor do I care to know. This I know, which is quite sufficient for me, that all the medicines in the apothecary's shop, even in the hands of Hippocrates himself, or Galen, had they arose from the dead for the occasion, could not have availed Mr. B—k, independent of the blisters *ordered by me*. For know, liberal reader! at the very time Dr. P—— was essaying with his pen to assist my patient, he was told, the blisters required dressing, and that one of Mr. B—k's legs was swelled, inflamed, and painful. What I expected and wished, came to pass; the gout moved down, and from that auspicious moment, my patient began to recover; the bleeding lessened, the nose grew better, and all things put on a promising face. The leg continued

to

to discharge for more than a fortnight after, and the old gentleman is now going about, hearty and well, and, probably, with the prospect before him of some years *added* to his life. These circumstances I had from a gentlewoman who was in the house when Dr. P— was applied to about the state of the blisters, and who herself often superintended the dressing of them, and is an honest witness of the discharge they had. A discharge which *saved the old man's life*, and should make the family at least candid, if not grateful to me. The reader is left to his own reflections on this extraordinary case, so much misrepresented, but so little understood.

C A S E T H I R D.

THE *late* Mrs. N—ble I called upon, soon after my arrival in Newark, along with a Lady, to give her my advice, as a friend, relative to an ailing leg, of which she complained much, but could get no relief for. Upon examining it, I found nothing amiss, but a callous hornlike appearance where, upon a former oc-

casion, some violent application had destroyed the skin and part of the muscular flesh. She had pain and awkwardness in moving, to which her business particularly exposed her, by the rigidity and tension of the part interrupting the action and flexibility of the neighbouring muscles. In all other respects, she was perfectly well, ate her victuals heartily, looked ruddy and robust, but with a degree of corpulent fulness on the whole.

I told her, before the Lady who brought me to see her, that she had reason to be satisfied with her condition, and to thank Heaven it was not worse, adding, as what ought to be a convincing argument in such a case, that hundreds of people were in a worse state than she; could not walk at all, and were without her good health and comforts, in other respects. I advised her against all applications to her leg, while it remained in the state I saw it, and likewise advised her against all nostrums and drugs. I left her seemingly reconciled to what I had said, and saw her no more, till her remains were carried to the church yard !

Impatient

Impatient under a complaint which might have a variety of worse substitutes, and catching at the offered relief of confident empiricism, she submitted to be *salivated*, by the advice of a gentleman, who ought not to have interfered in matters of such serious consequence. The horrid process was begun—and a more horrid one does not exist in the darkest cells of the Inquisition—she melted down by degrees in the mercurial dissolution; grew so relaxed and weakened, her juices so broken down, and unnaturally commixt with each other in one colliquative mass, that blood at length was strained through the salivary glands: she became an emaciated spectacle of hopeless misery, loathsome and offensive to herself, and all around her, and then went—where she will be salivated no more.—Salivation destroyed this unhappy woman! it has destroyed thousands, and will destroy every one, sooner or later, who shall be so fatally advised as to undergo it.—He who advised this particular salivation, which ended in the death of a person who might have lived and been useful for many years, is the *very* gentleman who had

the medical prudery to be startled at eight grains of Calomel, to be carried out of the constitution in a few hours !

The juxtaposition of idle fear on the one hand, and temerarious boldness on the other, cannot fail to strike the reader. But it should strike *himself* much more forcibly. I accuse not this person of any thing criminal in intention. I am certain he intended and wished well: but what was that to the world, or to relations, in the article of satisfaction or comfort ! A life lost, whether by ignorance, or design, is a life lost. The *reality* of the loss is the same in either case, to friends, and to the public.

This affair, *too bad* as it is, should have passed unnoticed by me, in this public manner, had not my *name* been brought into the account. In consequence of the salivation putting on alarming appearances, and the parties concerned beginning to apprehend *the worst*, it was asserted, in public company, by *one*, (who *ought* to have been well informed) that I had declared the late Mrs. N—ble's leg to be in so desperate a state, that nothing but amputation

tion could save it ! ! — I never did say, never could say so, in the possession of my professional senses ; but, on the contrary, as the reader has been already informed, I told the unhappy woman that there was no manner of danger in the state of her leg, and that every thing applied to it, or to her, would render it worse.

I need not anticipate the reader of sensibility in the reflections which must crowd upon him, from the above *facts*. I only say, I was forced to state them in *self-defence*, and to let blame light where it ought. Self-defence indeed has given birth to this publication, the writing of which has interrupted me in other matters, on which I had set my mind.—For a man first to commit a capital mistake in physic, and, when the consequences of that mistake evidently menaced—death, to bring in an *innocent* professional character, to share his odium, and his disgrace,—how shall I term the deed? — No living or dead language I know has a term to answer my purpose !

As Salivation is, in *all* cases, either attended with useless, or fatal effects, I could wish to discourage

discourage it entirely. I shall therefore borrow from myself the following short remarks, part of another work yet unpublished, and which I wish every *good* man of the profession to read with half the earnestness *many* pen long impotent prescriptions.

“ This rash unscientific practice (Salivation) lays a sure foundation for numberless chronical complaints of the bad anomalous kind, interrupting the comforts of life, and slowly sapping the constitution ; provided the less equivocal attacks of drop'sy, jaundice, indurated liver, hectic, atrophy, or pulmonary decline, do not ensue. There is another objection I think insuperable to the practice of salivating in *any* disorder, which seriously deserves the consideration of my brethren.”

“ During its violence, it stops all the natural secretions, which are the daily preservatives of life, particularly by the kidneys, biliary ducts, intestinal canal, cuticular vessels, sebaceous glands, &c. and not only stops, but brings their vitiated contents, by an artificial retrograde force, (which health reprobates, and often sinks under) to be discharged by the mouth,

mouth, viz. urine, sweat, bile, and, I have no doubt, the fluid absorbable parts of the faeces, abounding with acrid caustic salts of the worst kind. Hence the odious and offensive taste of the mouth, total depravity of the appetite, and intolerable fetid effluvia of the breath ; insomuch that the poor creature (who could not have deserved so dire a punishment for the greatest enormity) becomes partially putrid, and stinking above ground ! ”

“ Patients under salivation are almost always constive, make little water, and have dry skins, till the last colliquative stools and sweatings come on. It is no wonder ; for what should have passed off, as excrementitious, by the intestines, bladder, and other outlets, is attracted to the mouth, and percolated forcibly through its glands. Thus, instead of the various series of humours, subservient to the health and life of the body, moving from the centre to the circumference, and having a variety of passages out ; they are violently repelled from the circumference to the centre, and hurried off by one passage only, preternaturally enlarged. Shall we be surprised then that all

the humours and juices, thus preposterously combined, and agitated, should become depraved and morbid; the signs of which may be seen in the reduced habits, sunken eye-balls, and pallid countenances of those unhappy persons who trust their lives to the cruel and barbarian salivator!"

" The officious and blundering art of medicine has done infinite mischiefs in all ages. It still goes on without compunction or remorse, unenlightened by philosophy, and un instructed by the experience of ages. Salivation is one of the fatal instruments by which it works. How wretched must have been the theory and reasoning on which it was first founded! To bring those corrupt acrid humours, which Nature had kindly thrown out of the great internal circulation, to lay by, as it were, innoxious in the extremities, to dislodge and bring them back through all the mazes and labyrinths of the vascular system, depraving and poisoning every fluid they meet with, and every channel they pass through, would seem one of the last expedients of even the very last degree of ignorance, and unthinking

thinking temerity. Yet from the schools, so lost to science and common sense as to sanction and recommend the absurd and dangerous process, the whole system of modern practice is derived ! ”

“ I have been explicit on this head, at once to make practitioners recollect themselves in the *trade of death*, if any thing can do it, and alarm the people at large, for whom alone I write, against *salivation*, which blunderingly attempting to remove one evil, has often introduced a complication of lingering evils, ending in misery or death ; * the latter surely

the

* Another instance has occurred in Newark since I came there, additional to Mrs. N—ble’s, of the pernicious effects of *salivation*. Mr. C—n, an inhabitant, came to consult me, about three months ago, relative to the state of his mouth, and particularly the condition of his jaw, which, in both articulations, was immovable. On enquiry I found he had undergone a *salivation* of five weeks, to cure some scorbutic ulcers and runnings with which he had been afflicted.

the happier alternative ; for a life of bodily suffering is, if I may use the expression, a sort of protracted living death ! ”

The foregoing cases, through the medium of malignant misrepresentation, were meant to lower my professional character, but, like most things

The poor man, in the enjoyment of health and robustness, can admit nothing between his teeth, but fluids, except what is minced very small, and takes an hour at a time to receive so much nourishment as his necessities require, and scarcely that.—By the salivary attraction of the mercury, the acrid humours were brought from all parts to the mouth; infarcting, inflaming, and ulcerating the gums, and internal surface of the cheek, approximating the two, and disposing them to grow together. This adhesion, and probably an indurated state of the salival glands and synovial ducts, have brought on an ankylosis of a peculiar kind, affecting each jaw. I recommended the trial of a blister, the first time he visited me, as a powerful stimulus and evacuant, to divert any future flux of humours from the mouth, that might add to and increase the swelling and callosity. It had

things wickedly intended, will eventually serve, instead of injuring me. Good generally comes out of evil, and amounts to one of the strongest arguments possible, for the permission of the latter. The apothecaries of Newark, and their implicit adherents, with no merit on their side which I can acknowledge, have hit upon the likeliest

no other effect, though borne with great constancy for some weeks.—Mr. C—n's disorder was easy of cure at first, as every species of the scurvy treated rationally is, without the mischievous intervention of a ptyalism; at all times an injudicious, desperate remedy, which I sincerely wish to see in professional disgrace.—In his present state, being beyond the powers of medicine, I advised him, a considerable time ago, to consult the surgeons of Newark and Nottingham, to try if any thing could be done in their line, not depending on the advice of one or two alone, in so urgent and critical a case.

A sensible and experienced surgeon in Nottingham writes me to the following effect. “The inflammation which succeeded the use of the mercury,

likeliest method to secure my establishment, as long as I shall chuse it, and increase my business, which, in every other respect, I wish to have independent of them. They have endeavoured to direct the good sense of the town, with regard to the choice of a physician, which they had no right to interfere in, on any account, more than the *chemist* or *druggist*, and

they

curry, appears to have created ulcerations in the internal parts of the cheeks, and upon the gums of the lower jaw, as those parts have been brought into contact and adhere to each other; nor can I think he will be able to open the mouth until they are separated by the knife. — I have told him the necessity of being under the operator's care for a little time, in order to prevent a second adhesion, after they have been divided.” — Whether this gentleman's brethren in Newark will coincide with him in opinion, respecting the necessity of the operation, remains to be tried. Nothing else, as it appears to me, would seem powerful enough to restore motion to the jaws. I sincerely wish the operation may succeed, to the relief of a sober industrious man.

they have taken every method, direct and indirect, to depreciate and traduce a character because it was found to be attached to the people, and little disposed to consider their *trade*, separately from the ease, comfort, and convalescence of patients. I am sorry to add that, in so doing, they have exposed the honour of the profession, and given the world just reason to suppose, that covetousness, the vile lust of money, is with some the ruling passion, and that the accommodation and recovery of patients are but secondary considerations.

When I mention chymists or druggists, I would observe, that they have an equal right with apothecaries to prescribe, that is, to practice as physicians. They are but merchants both, the former wholesale, and the latter retail. The one having attended hospitals, and the other not, makes no difference. Those who attend the hospitals, do it to qualify themselves as surgeons, and not as apothecaries. Neither are surgeons themselves authorized to prescribe to diseases, except those immediately connected with chirurgical cases and operations. Their mixt characters, as surgeon-apothecaries,

make

make a confusion in business, and lead the public astray, as if they formed *one* profession, when, at the same time, they are as distinct as possible. Disorders never will be treated with safety or honour until medical men make up *two* classes alone, *physicians* and *surgeons*. While practitioners have a profit on the drugs they *prescribe*, and, on many articles, an enormous one, they will prescribe for the sake of getting off these drugs, however insignificant in their operation, or however, perhaps, doing mischief all the time.

The love of money is an idolatry of so bewitching a nature, that every principle, every moral consideration, gives way to it, when they come into competition. But in no profession should it be restrained with a more watchful spirit, than that of physic. It is enough, surely, that wretched mortals are confined to sick beds, and endure the punishment of bodily distress, without being punished in their purse, oftentimes beyond what it can bear. If they have *value received* indeed, by being restored to health, it is well; no pecuniary reward almost should seem too great in

return

return for such a blessing, as restored health is a renewed power of *making money*, imparted by the successful practitioner: but, on the contrary, how truly grievous to families, where the medical case has been mistaken, has been rendered worse, or has terminated in death, the superaddition of considerable expence!—Unsuccessful doctors, provided they have buoyed up the people whom they attended with confident hopes of recovery, should return all the fees they may have received, as most common disorders, except that of old age, are either curable or relievable.

Were such a rule established, doctors would be wary and considerate in undertaking the management of diseases; beside, not one patient should die in five that do, or be ailing spectacles for life. The same conduct ought likewise to obtain among apothecaries. In unsuccessful cases (good God! how often do they happen!) they should charge nothing for their drugs; a circumstance continually before their eyes, which would effectually check their forward propensity to load poor patients with *repetatur's* on *repetatur's*. The blest result

of the whole would be a reduction of practitioners one half, a reduction devoutly to be wished, and fervently to be prayed for. While they remain as they are, crowding every city, town, and village, college systems will grow more embarrassed and embarrassing; disorders more complicated and mysterious; and the triumphs of death, quickened in his ravages, be more numerous and conspicuous over our species. Wherever doctors abound, *there* Death has erected his black standard, and will have in proportion his sable processions to the churchyard. One physician and one druggist, disinterested in principle, and simple in prescription, are sufficient for any district of twenty miles circumference, not including a very large city or town. The true knowledge of disorders is comprisable in a score of octavo pages, which now make huge volumes; and the remedies for them reducible, as already noticed, to eight articles: on this short but correct scale of business, therefore, a physician, as above described, could do justice to an hundred patients a-day.

This address has swelled upon my hands, contrary to my original intention. Though local

local in the circumstances that gave it birth, there are many things in it applicable to every place, and from which the practitioner, open to instruction, may draw useful conclusions. I make no apology for the freedom and boldness of my remarks. They are free and bold, because I love mankind beyond every professional connection, and social attachment. When I see men of like trade colleague together, to enhance and multiply the profits of that trade, those who think themselves inferiors in it, burning unmanly incense to their apprehended *bettters*, I am hurt for the honour of the human character: but when I consider this trade in intimate connection with the lives and constitutions of the people, and that the *less* extensive and flourishing it is, the *more* conducive to the comforts and happiness of mankind, I am shocked to contemplate the present state of it in most places! men getting rich from poor beginnings, while the art of healing, especially in chronical complaints, is not more certain or successful now, than it was an hundred years ago!

These convictions and feelings I have warmly expressed, wherever I chanced to reside, and

thence have had the apothecaries, for the most part, my detractors and calumniators. Yet, unaccountable as it will appear, these very men have adopted my mode of treating diseases, even before my face ; pilfered the files of my receipts, prescribed their contents, and been—successful. I give them credit for the adoption, and heartily wish it were more general : but in what terms should their meanness and disingenuity be reprobated, for endeavouring to vilify their *benefactor*, and undermine his practical usefulness ! They condemn him for the little use he makes of medicines ; but, in doing so, pay him a substantial compliment, as he is much more successful than those physicians who prescribe loads : so that the plain English of the matter is this, *they condemn him for being successful* ; or, in other words, feel troubled and disappointed, that patients should not have a *chance to die*, by taking larger portions of their abominable stuff !

Since his deviation from the schools, and reforming his pharmacopoeia, to the exclusion of ninety-nine articles of an hundred, *he has never lost a patient*, except where he has given warning,

warning, and pronounced the case an irrecoverable one.* Indeed he has been sometimes most pleasingly disappointed, by the recovery of patients under his care, whose cases, according to his best judgment at the time, he thought, and intimated to those concerned, would turn out fatally. His will be the success

* *This, however, is impossible to be done, in the beginning stages of several disorders, such being the difficulty and nicety of the medical profession. There shall be for many days, in some cases, such an equipoise of good and bad symptoms, so exact an apparent equilibrium between life and death, that the most consummate abilities will not be able to pronounce on which side the preponderation is likely to happen. This distressing suspense, however, has an end. The auspicious appearances on the one hand, or the unauspicious on the other, suddenly take the lead. At this time the physician can be at no loss for his prognostic, therefore, should announce it to those concerned, with that firmness, but circumspection, which good sense, principle, and knowledge of the world, are never without.*

cess of every practitioner, who acts upon just principles, has simple conceptions of disorders, and never orders a medicine, whether compound or simple, the decisive virtues of which he does not know from repeated experience; and who loves money *far less* than the moral approbation of his own mind.

It will appear to the impartial reader, that my own brethren, as well as the apothecaries, have come in for their share of reprobation, in the foregoing pages. They deserve it in some instances more, as the education of the former should inspire them with a superiority of thought, and dignity of demeanour, beyond the latter. In general it may be said, that the physician who comes up to the apothecary's full idea of *pleasing* him, consequently is his *favourite physician*, **MUST BE UNJUST TO HIS PATIENTS.** It is of no consideration to the world, how his *intentions* may or may not *exculpate* him. His intentions are out of the question, and have no reference to any but his **God.** The fact is, and nothing can set aside fact, that *his patients must have injustice done them, so long as he continues a favourite of the apothecaries, and is highly spoken of by them.*

It

It is impossible to save patients, while the forms of medicines prescribed for them are perpetually changing, once, twice, thrice, &c. a-day, without any particular one having a fair steady trial. Instead of operating on the patient, agreeable to some rational unity of design, or discreet indication, they only contend with each other, and counteract each other's effects; while the patient's stomach is to be considered only as the field of action, consequently, the scene of constant fermentation and uproar. All this time the original disorder, mistaken and neglected, gathers strength and obstinacy, which overpower the constitution, and kill the patient; or else GOD, all-gracious, recovers him by the secret efforts of the constitution, in spite of doctors and their drugs.—This is the progress of modern prescription, for the most part, the systematic traffic between the physician and apothecary. *Par nobile fratrum.*

No one of the profession has had the boldness to say so hitherto. The detection has been reserved me. As a general object highly interesting, the world shall find me faithful and steady

Ready to their cause, by means of the press, as often as it becomes necessary ; and though I cannot prevent slanders and low calumnies from being uttered, propagated, and believed, (they are the bloated growth of every place) yet I will, whatever may be the trouble or risk, watch over the dignity and integrity of the profession, with a jealous eye, whilst I have the honour of presiding over it in Newark, or elsewhere ; anxious it shall not suffer by scientific ignorance, on the one hand, or over-bearing self-conceit and presumption, on the other. *

Having faithfully narrated the cases which have been misconstrued, and whispered about to my disadvantage, by people whose zeal has

no

* *There is a most salutary law in Ireland, procured by the late excellent physician, patriot, and man, Dr. LUCAS, one of the members for the city of Dublin at the time, by which a considerable pecuniary fine is incurred, if any but graduates of a college shall write and sign prescriptions. By the same statute, physicians, regularly bred, are obliged to authenticate their receipts*

no knowledge to direct it, and whose officiousness is only exceeded by their mercenary views; I next beg leave to present the reader with the following list, which have been either perfectly recovered, or considerably relieved in my hands. They will not be displeased to be recorded as witnesses of the truth. I have no quack-like vanity in bringing them forward. My purpose is only to do justice to a *rational plan*, which will seldom or never fail of success, and to show the impotency of the present *reigning mode*. I shall particularise them according to the date of my attendance, and use initials only.

Mr.

receipts, by writing down the initials of the university where they may have taken their degree. A similar act of parliament, in Great Britain, would have excellent effects; would at once maintain the honour of science, the chastity of prescription, and deter officious empirics, of all descriptions, whose knowledge is their vanity, and whose intermeddling is their discredit, from profaning the holy ground of the Ars Medendi.

Mr. M. (country) a spectacle of misery for some years, with his eye and head. Recovered! — Miss J. L. Her case has been given at full length. Recovered! *—Mr. S. (town) his

* Since writing this little young Lady's case, every appearance of scorbutic eruption has entirely gone off; and, with her brother and sister, she has had the measles in the most favourable manner, notwithstanding Mr. Milnes, her late unfortunate doctor, declared a former eruptive illness of her's to be that disorder.

The measles, like most other diseases, are systematically mismanaged every day. Hence so many tedious and imperfect recoveries, and so many instances of pulmonary declines, from what is justly called the remaining dregs of the disorder. The measles are not more successfully treated now, than they were an hundred years ago. Shame upon modern physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries! — Treated on the writer's plan, the measles are subduable in a few days, and all the usual bad consequences entirely prevented. He keeps a blister discharging from their

cafe a long and dangerous one. Recovered! — Mr. W. (town) a bad nervous fever. Recovered! — Mrs. G. (town) the complaint about which I was consulted, deemed incurable by her surgeon, Mr. Milnes, and, through him, by the world at large. Recovered! — Mrs. H. (town) asthma, with fulness, (oppression,) and want of appetite. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. D. (town) nervous head-ache, and other disagreeable symptoms. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. S. (town) exquisite distress about the hepatic region, &c. &c. Considerably relieved! — Mr. H. (country) a total paralytic weakness and

their very first appearance, preserves the bowels open all the time, and allows a dilute proportion of spirits and water for the constant drink. The blister has three important effects. It prevents the eyes being affected; holds the cough in check; and effectually obviates the residuum of the disease falling upon the lungs. — When will my brethren learn to be successful, by deviating from themselves, and from the schools?

and immobility.' Recovered!—Mr. S. (town) slow nervous fever. Recovered!*—Mr. T. (town) constipation of the bowels and gall-stones. Recovered!—Master P. (town) scorbutic eruptions, and bilious complaints. Recovered!—Mr. L. (town) a complication of distressing ailments of long standing. Considerably relieved!**—Mrs. M. (town) a bowel

* In the catalogue of this gentleman's complaints was the hemorrhoids, and a painful incontinentia urinæ. Both are now perfectly cured, but by a method totally different from the common. Indeed the common method is so uncommonly absurd, that I am not at all surprised these disorders rank with others among the approbria medicorum. Let physicians be cured of systematic obstinacy, before they presume to cure diseases.

** The remains of this patient's fever settled in one leg, and brought on a considerable swelling. A blister, kept open for a week or a fortnight longer, would have entirely

complaint, and tendency to a decline. Recovered!—Mrs. M. (town) first stage of pulmonary consumption. Considerably relieved!—Mr. H. (town) bloody urine and other complaints.

entirely removed it; but, notwithstanding I recommended the discharge in the strongest manner. Mr. S— had not the resolution to comply with my advice. Instead of that, means were injudiciously used to disperse the swelling, that is, send the humour upwards into the system, a sure foundation for future complaints.—The obstinacy of common practice is amazing; plodding for ever in the dark hacknied tracts of former times, doctors shut their eyes against every ray of light that might enter.—It is an undoubted proof of a good constitution to be able to throw down the humour that oppresses it to the extremities. Had any of the interior vitals been unsound, the humour would have stopt there, and never come down. Surely this should seem plain to the commonest discernment. Yet blundering art, with the solemn confidence of professional wisdom, adopts every expedient, poultice, fomentation, embrocation, chaffing, &c. to counteract the constitution's

complaints. Relieved!—Mr. T. (town) nervous and bowel indisposition. Recovered!—This gentleman's maid servant, deemed a soft case by herself and others. Recovered!—Another of his maid servants, fever and sore throat. Recovered!—Mr. W. (country)

various flattery's benign purpose, and repell the humours upwards; in consequence of which some vital organ begins to ail, or a number of nameless internal complaints soon discover themselves. People are content to impute all this to the afflicting hand of GOD, and that man is naturally subject to inevitable diseases: Nothing, however, can be more absurd or untrue. The whole results from medical bungling and mismanagement, and our Maker's name should ever stand clear of such foul and irreverent aspersions. Most disorders, not acute, are the effects of repulsion from the surface and extremities, by the daring hand of untaught art, or of revulsions not properly timed, and sustained, by the judicious applications of enlightened experience. In lieu of these, patients are daily losing their time, health, money, wits, and in taking bracers and strengtheners (as they are called) from the apothecary's shop, which can no more give strength or tone to the weakened constitution, than a sun painted on a sign board can warm the earth, and produce vegetation.

various internal complaints. Considerably relieved! — Mr. M. (country) a bilious and aguish case, attended with uncommon languor, and dejection of spirits. Considerably relieved! (This patient's complaints are very common. They are occasioned by *the absence of a topical disorder*, such as the gout, rheumatism, piles, &c.) Indeed every internal complaint may truly be called an abortive struggle of the constitution, to form and locate an outward disease. With adequate natural, or artificial power, where the former fails, the constitution would throw every thing that oppresses or disturbs it, on the joints, or to the surface.) — Mrs. C. (country) rheumatic headache of many years duration. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. J. (town) violent nervous symptoms. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. H. (country) virulent humour about the gums, jaw, and neck, mistaken for a confirmed cancer, and considered as incurable. Recovered! — Mrs. E. (town) bad case of the hemorrhoids. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. W. (town) enormous wen slightly ulcerated, with other distressing ailments. Considerably relieved! — Mrs. M. (country) exquisite misery

from

from hysterical causes, rendered inveterate by common practice. Considerably relieved!—Mrs. B. (town) asthma, cough, head-ache, and fever. Recovered!—Mr. S. (country) unsettled gout, constipated bowels, fulness and pain about the stomach and hepatic region. Recovered!—Master and Miss L. (town) measles, with cough and sore throat. Recovered!—Mr. D's children, (town) bad kind of measles, complicated with scorbutic eruptions. Recovered!—Mrs. F. (town) bilious cholic and diarrhoea. Recovered!—Miss G. (town) bowel complaint, wasting, and other alarming complaints. Recovered!—Miss C. (town) bad ague, mismanaged with the bark, a common practice. Considerably relieved!—Miss R. (town) violent scurvy and erysipelas combined. Considerably relieved!—Mrs. L. (town) great pain cross the breast and stomach, with biliary obstructions. Considerably relieved!—Mrs. H. (town) complaint in her neck. Considerably relieved!—Mr. G. (town) scurvy of the worst kind, occupying the external throat, the chin, cheeks, &c. Considerably relieved!—Mrs. S. (country) cough, and pain in the breast. Considerably relieved!

relieved!—Mrs. H. (town) scorbutic acri-
 mony, and bilious complaints. Considerably
 relieved!—Mr. A. (town) paralytic symp-
 toms. Considerably relieved!—Mr. T. (town)
 scorbutic eruptions badly treated. Considerably
 relieved!—Mr. C. (country) bowel obstruc-
 tions, with abdominal hardness and swelling.
 Recovered!—Mr. H. (country) complaints
 of a similar nature. Recovered!—Mrs. C.
 (town) bowel indisposition. Considerably
 relieved!—Mr. F. (country) a long standing
 ague, attended with threatening symptoms.
 Recovered!—Mr. S. (country) bad ulcerated
 leg, pronounced incurable. Recovered!—Mr.
 G. (country) fever, ague, and violent ven-
 tricular spasms. Recovered!—Mr. C. (coun-
 try) excruciating pain in his side, delirium,
 and intestinal obstructions. Considerably re-
 lieved!—Mr. D. (country) low nervous fever,
 neglected till the *ninth* day. Recovered!—Mr.
 D. (country) fever, with uncommon abdominal
 fulness and pain. Recovered!—Mr. W. (coun-
 try) obstinate nervous fever, neglected till the
fourteenth day. Recovered!—Mr. W. (town)
 liver disorder and rheumatism. Recovered!—
 Mrs. T. (town) hectic fever, extreme weakness

and langours, total deprivation of appetite, after lying in. Recovered!—Mr. B. (town) abdominal obstruction and pain. Recovered!

—Mrs. T. (town) rheumatic fever, attended with alarming symptoms. Recovered!—

N. B. Many of those set down as “ Considerably relieved,” in this list, have a prospect of being perfectly recovered in a reasonable time. Indeed such has been the grateful consciousness of several patients above mentioned, on account of unexpected relief or cures, that they have heaped *extra* favours on the writer, peculiarly valuable as being stamp'd with gratitude.*

Let

* In the foregoing list are not included numbers of the poorer sort, who have been recovered, or greatly relieved, in consequence of the writer's advice; among which were some accounted beyond cure, and given over by common practice. Indeed, it must be remarked, that the poor, the children of Providence, and who ought therefore to be every one's concern, in the various illnesses they are peculiarly liable to, are soon, alas! abandoned by the generality of practitioners. They give no fees, and GOD is not to be trusted

tilk

Let me see the physician, and be told his name, who can present such credentials to the public, during so short space of practice as a few months! These are the friends which support

till so remote a period as the last day.—It is a thought which seldom, I believe, strikes most people, that property which they fondly suppose their own, is not their own. It belongs, in discreet proportions, to poverty, affliction, and distress, or, more properly, it belongs to GOD, who wills and wishes it to be bestowed upon the needy, the afflicted, and distressed. If there is one affliction or distress in the town or neighbourhood where we reside, which we are able to alleviate, but do not, I have no doubt we shall stand as culprits before the bar of divine retribution for the omission.—Property locked up in our coffers, un-laid out for the good of mankind, as well as our own, exemplifies the scriptural talent “hid in a napkin,” which rendered the possessor an “unprofitable servant” and deserving of exemplary punishment. Nay, on the scale of Revelation, it is clear to me, that even superfluous furniture, carriages, horses, ser-

support and illustrate a physician's character, and not the trumpeting of apothecaries, who blow only to bring custom to their own shops.

Half

vants, &c. is a perversion of riches, a high species of moral delinquency in the sight of spiritual beings, (to whom exclusive property is unknown) if there be one fellow creature within our reach destitute of a meal, or a comfort. Scripture asserts it. “Sell all that thou hast, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven, and come and follow me.”—If it be so, and on the Christian scheme it unquestionably is, what shall we think of our Lords and Dukes, rioting in superfluities of granduer, in satiety of voluptuousness, amid thousands, **AS GOOD, AS GREAT AS THEY, IN DIVINE ESTIMATION**, who may not have daily bread to eat, with perhaps superadded family sickness! Yet this is the case in every county of England.—Still more. What shall we think of our Bishops (Fathers in GOD as they are ridiculously styled) who amass great fortunes, contrary to their scriptural commission, and to Apostolic example, while thousands in their respective diocess's lack common food, and decent clothing from the cold!

Half of the success above specified, effected in so short a time, would establish a London physician in the first circles of practice. Nay, I have my doubts that any one there, at present, commenced business in so respectable and unequivocal a manner. It becomes me to tell the truth, however it may involve my own praise. Affected humility is vanity in a mask. *Facts* are witnesses sent from the skies, and entitle a man to hold up his head with dignity and composure, at the bar of the public, against falfe accusation, and ungenerous surmise.

Let me not be told of the college whence a physician comes, nor of the *Dissertatio medica inauguralis* he may have to distribute to the apothecaries. If he is to be uniformly successful where success is practicable, and knows why he is so, he must, he will abandon many of the fundamental doctrines of *that* college. I have done so, and have never lost a patient, except those I declared could not be saved. As to any man's thesis, built upon the maxims of the college, and adorning the libraries of the apothecaries, he will be ashamed of it in a few years, if he is capable of self-cultivation, and

advances in Scientific wisdom ; he will adopt the Ovidian remark,

Dum relego, scripsisse pudet, quia plurima cerno
Me quoque, qui feci, judice, digna lini.

In general, medical thesis's are absolute *trash* : trash in the doctrines laid down, and trash in language. I include my own in the number. I have many volumes of thesis's, with scarce a dozen exceptions. Presenting them in strange places, is forestalling the public judgment, and making friends before we have proved that we deserve them. This I observe in self-justification, as, among other high crimes and misdemeanours alleged against me, it has often been insinuated, I could not be a physician regularly bred, consequently must be an impostor, because I did not send the apothecaries of Newark each a copy of my thesis. *Nihil tam prope, tam proculque.*

How superficial and illiberal the common constructive opinions of the world ! What had its rise from strict moral principle, a delicacy of conduct and situation, some people have imputed to me as an act of imposture !

How

How hard is it even for innocence to pass through this world without censure!—*Quis unquam in sole ambulavit absque umbra?*—I am convinced that were even *Jesus Christ* himself now upon the earth, and should cure “all manner of diseases” *without drugs*, as heretofore, he would be opposed and ill spoken of, by the pharmacopolists, and their friends. When I mention that **HOLY PERSONAGE**, I do it with the utmost reverence, and through no medium of comparison with any mortal.

It is becoming an honest man, and may be of use to the world, if proper advantage be taken of the communication, to observe, that my two principal convalescents in the foregoing list, Mrs. G—y, and Miss L—e, were brought forward chiefly by blistering.* The first had a blister kept open, and largely discharging, *seven weeks*, upon her foot; and the latter, one on each arm for *nine*. All the

* *The witty gentlemen behind the counter have called me the blistering doctor, in more than one place: but the sorest blister I ever applied will be that now burning on their professional shoulders.—Blisters have never deceived me, neither will this.*

the universities and colleges of physicians in the world could not have saved them without these; and these, to the length I carried them, they would not have ordered, nay, would have shuddered at, in a fit of professional ague. Blisters likewise had a co-operative effect in recovering some other of my patients. I used few medicines, and those only the operations of which were *visible*; perhaps, all together, not exceeding forty shillings worth, *out of the chemist's shop.*

I am sure, if the world is wise, and practitioners honest, that THE ART OF BLISTERING will be a new era in physic, of more *practical* value to mankind, than the Harvean discovery.* Before the true circulation of the blood

* *The late Mr. B— of this town would now have been a living memorable instance of the singular advantage of blistering, had it not been for his own imprudence. He laboured under a distemper compounded of asthma, jaundice, dropsy, and ulcerated legs. He bore for some weeks the operation of four blisters,*

blood was known, physicians, in most cases, practised with as much success as they do now ; nor are the names of Hippocrates and Galen unfit

blisters, and for one week five, with unconquerable patience. They had a daily discharge almost beyond credibility. I powerfully supported his constitution all the time with regimen and cordials. According to all appearances, about the end of six weeks, he was perfectly recovered, his body and limbs quite reduced, his asthma gone, his colour better, his appetite returned, and his strength increasing fast ; insomuch that I gave over my attendance. Unfortunately, without consulting me, his first going abroad was to his own farm in the country, in an open one-horse chair. Nor was he contented with a single visit there. He came home, dined, and returned to it again in the evening. Not many days after he began to complain, his bad breathing, &c. seized him. As soon as sent for I renewed my former plan, but was too late to save him.—The first stage of convalescence, or incipient recovery, is ever most liable to dan-

unfit to rank with any of modern times.—My brethren sometimes order blisters, but in such a manner as to do more harm than good.

They

gerous relapses, the constitutional balance having but just turned on the favourable side, with no preponderating weight in the scale sufficient to keep it steady. Patients are so charmed and delighted with a feel of returning health, and a prospect of getting abroad, after a long and painful confinement, that they anticipate the establishment of it, and grow impatient of medical restraint and discipline. Many fatal relapses happen in consequence of such impatience, as the force of the constitution, just recovering from a severe conflict and victory hardly won, is soon overpowered by a new enemy.—I have lost several patients in this way, after the most flattering convalescent appearances. I am not fond of being uncharitable, but it strikes me that, when a sense of immediate danger subsides, and hope looks forward to perfect recovery, the more deeply seated disease of the mind begins to discover itself—the love of property.—To save a guinea, the half-recovered patient awkwardly dismisses his physician, trusts to the cook and the nurse, saves his guinea, and—dies!

They are suffered to dry up too soon, therefore always do harm. They raise a combustion which they are not permitted to quiet.

Blisters should be made perpetual, while the cause which first required them exists in force. All disorders to which doctors cannot give a name—and they abound beyond number—are to be cured or relieved by blisters. Every other prescription, except those that support the constitution (in many cases the better doctor of the two) and evacuate the bile and other *detenta* of the bowels, is impertinent and impotent, if not actively mischievous. Such are all nervous, hypocondriac, and hysterical disorders, in their progress and consequences; if not checked, connected with the *dead palsey*. In such cases, alterative medicines miserably cheat the poor patient, while the lancet—that *instrumentum lethale*—often powerfully assists the predominant symptoms to increase the lingering miseries of life, or the sudden triumphs of Death.

There are disorders however, notwithstanding the intrinsic excellence and advantage of

the **BLISTERING, EVACUATING, SUSTAINING,** plan recommended, which will baffle all but divine skill and power. Those of the scrofulous, insane, highly putrid or bilious, gangrenous, carcinomatous, spasmodic, convulsive kind, often deride the highest attainments of medical knowledge. These, especially the last, including the periods of infancy, destroy more than any we are acquainted with. Most other bodily complaints, except old age, are either curable or relievable by art. A cure for old age and death, would bring the Indies into a man's pocket ; for though mankind, in general, are so degraded in principle, sentiment, and sublime ambition, as easily to relinquish the prospect of immortality in another world, yet all, I am persuaded, would wish to be immortal in this, were it possible, wretched as it is.

The seat of the above disorders is either in the general vitiated mass of the animal juices, or deep in the interior recesses of the glandular, nervous system, beyond the reach of external or internal stimulous and revulsion, and exquisitely affecting some primary vital organ.

Blif-

Blistering, * and supporting meantime the powers of the constitution, failing in these cases, all possible to be done *has* been done; nothing *farther* is within the resources of prescription.

It remains to observe, that if my professional brethren in Newark, or elsewhere, are to be more successful in curing diseases, than hitherto they

* *It is repeatedly mentioned in conversation, that blistering was known in Newark before Dr. S. came there. True. So were the ten commandments. But what avails a knowledge of them, if they are not kept?—To be acquainted with the art of blistering, without practising it, is the same as ignorance. Nay it is worse than ignorance. Knowledge unreduced to practice, is knowledge wilfully and deliberately perverted, prostituted to the indolence of an elbow chair. But notwithstanding all such insinuations, the assertion is true, that no practitioner, either ancient or modern, has carried blistering to the extent I have done, or with the success which has uniformly attended it. My laurels therefore (pride becomes a man on some occasions)*

they have been, or in future can be, it must be by adopting my plan, and abandoning the old absurd beaten track. Should they have magnanimity enough to adopt it, notwithstanding they may not acknowledge the adoption, success, I have no doubt, will crown their practice, and business increase with their success. They may not sell, indeed, so much bark,

are not to be blasted by the blighting breath of jaundiced obloquy, or malignant misrepresentation.—I am astonished more and more at the folly, weakness, and credulous tameness of the world! The world, according to the received chronology, is near six thousand years old. But what are its attainments in common sense, and common reflection? None, beyond what the first couple possessed, when they forfeited their innocence for a poultry apple.—Confining the remark to the medical line, physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, are employed—because they are men of superior virtue and abilities?—No! but because we do not chuse to offend them; because they are our old acquaintances, our relations, our customers, our flatterers, &c. Thus is life, and its chief blessing, health, sported and trifled with.

bark, valerian, camphire, musk, castor, and a long etcetera of *officinal insignificants*, but they will deserve to be requited for their attendance, which, at the end of the year, from a grateful public, undisgusted with drugs, may make matters tolerably even. But their attendance should be entirely confined to enquiries into the *nurse's* punctuality in observing the directions she may have got, relative to the administration of medicines, and relieving the sick bed with those tender affiduities, and soothing accommodations, which it peculiarly requires. Nothing else is their duty to do, except faithfully to report, to the physician, the result of their enquiries. The knowledge of the pulse, the water, the tongue, the eyes, &c. as the disorder advances, or recedes, should be referred entirely to him, as requiring the greatest abilities, and nicest attention. But, in the restricted sense, a candid, friendly apothecary may be of considerable use, both to the physician, and the families where they are jointly employed, and justly entitled to pecuniary compensation, according to circumstances, for his time and trouble.

A P P E N D I X.

SINCE writing the foregoing sheets, I have been told of *five* other cases, additional to those already recited, in which ingenuity has distortingly found something unfavourable to me. As I never mix with the gossiping ranks of life, *stories* are a long time in reaching my ear. This accounts for my not placing them among their fellows.

C A S E F O U R T H,

THAT of the late Mr. B—ne. He sent for me in the most distressed condition imaginable. I found all the natural passages in a state of obstruction ; his appetite gone ; his breathing bad ; oppression about the heart great ; his body swelled and hard ; considerable pain near the renal and hepatic region, encircling and tightening him like a belt ; with a sense of general lassitude, and incapacity to move.

move. His pulse was no otherwise affected than by being sluggish and oppressed ; he had no thirst ; his tongue was moist and clean ; but he had bad nights, and consequently unrefreshed disagreeable mornings. The powers of his constitution unable to make a push, any critical effort either external or internal, my business was immediately to assist it. I blistered his feet, and effectually forced the passages both by urine and stool. Every thing went on to my wishes, and in about a week subsequent to my first visit, I took a professional leave of my patient. I paid him, however, two friendly visits after. One foot and ankle were considerably swelled and inflamed at that time, evidently with gouty matter, but his blister continued to discharge with occasional applications of the epispastic ointment, which, persevered in for a week or two, would have completed his recovery. The last words I said to him were these ; Mr. B—ne, *your life depends on the running of the blister.* In other respects he was well. About three weeks after I was sent for to see him. All his upper complaints were returned, with a quick, small, uncertain pulse. I had

nothing to do, in so hopeless a case, but to endeavour a second revulsion to the extremities. The blister did not rise, and his pulse beat not less than 150 in a minute. I then declared his doom. He died two days after.—Poor man! notwithstanding my last words to him, and his promise to act accordingly, he suffered the discharge, by his blister, to dry up, upon which he gradually grew worse, and did not send for me till—*actum erat*. Mr. B—ne might have been now alive, had not his impatience of pain exceeded his resolution. *His friends are satisfied with my conduct, my enemies are not; but — Magna est veritas et prevelabit!*

CASE FIFTH,

THAT of the late Miss W—d, near Newark. I have been represented as refusing to go at an early hour to see her. It will be sufficient to say, that the messenger must have mistaken my answer in the hurry he was in. I told him I should set off as soon as I could get ready for the road. It was about the latter end of May, at or near three o'clock

o'clock in the morning, quite light, when he came. I set off accordingly, but, not being much acquainted with the country, I lost my way, and about three quarters of an hour in time. This is the simple fact, which, taken up in a wrong light, has given offence where none was intended. Indeed it was impossible to intend offence to a family I was an utter stranger to, beside the circumstance of its directly flying in the face of my interest and future prospects.—I was, however, time enough at the place of my destination to be —useless, unless by pronouncing the young Lady's doom. Every one about her I found were mistaken with regard to her real situation. They first esteemed it a fit only, like some she had had before, or the effect of laudanum administered.—But her case was a *dying one*, owing to a mortification begun at that time in the gall-bladder, biliary ducts, and, probably, in the substance of the liver itself. She had been subject to the agonies of gall-stones, for some years before. Some large stone or stones must have stopt in the passages previous to my seeing her, and brought on so great an inflammation or laceration of the parts, as ended in a gangrene.

Her senses were totally gone when I saw her ; her eyes were fixt and dim ; she was speechless and motionless ; there was no distinct pulsation of the arteries, but a sort of tremulous throbbing, too quick to be counted ; while the cold dew of death had settled upon her.—Poor young Lady ! her *dying state* began several hours before I saw her, when turning to a clock she had frequently looked at by way of amusement, and passing the hours of her distress, she observed to those about her, “ *my eyes grow dark, I cannot see the hand of the clock go.* ”

C A S E S I X T H,

THAT of the late Mr. J. N.—I. It was a low nervous fever, but had been quite neglected for *six days* before I was called in, his *whole* support during that time, except now and then a dish of coffee, having been *cold water*. Appearances were so retrograde and slow, that I began almost to despair of being able to raise his fever to a proper type, especially as his constitution, to contend with it,

I found

I found had always been weakly and poor. However, by taking, nearly for his constant drink, rum and water, wine and water, wine whey, and nourishing spoon articles, together with the powerful co-operation of *four blisters*, one on each arm, and one on each foot, upon the thirteenth day of the disease, and seventh of my attendance, the fever gently gave way : soft, generous perspirations, and lightness of feel all over, except from the blisters, which now began to be more sensibly felt (a happy indication in such fevers) and more copiously to discharge ; a turbid deposit in his urine ; a moister tongue ; inclination for sleep, &c. were the pleasing appearances that succeeded. Things, in short, were in so promising a train, that I intimated to the family my visits were no longer necessary, at the same time, requesting his *wife* and *mother* to give me immediate notice if any alteration happened, to require my farther attendance. I took my leave accordingly. This happened on a Monday. I had no message whatever from the family afterward, but, on the Thursday succeeding, I was informed by Mr. S—t, that a receipt came to his shop the day before for my patient Mr.

N—I, WITHOUT A NAME. The reader may guess my astonishment, when it was intimated to me, that the anonymous prescription was written, and directed to be made up, by an APOTHECARY of Nottingham!!! *

The apothecary, finding Mr. N—I grow worse and worse, had *another* physician called in to rectify his misconduct. But the unfortunate patient was irrecoverably lost. Dr. S—r prescribed for him to no purpose. During the whole time I heard not a syllable from the family, nor have I since. Yet, notwithstanding the ill usage I have received, I sincerely sympathize with a distressed wife and children, deprived of a sober and industrious head! That he might not ultimately have recovered under my care, was possible, though contrary to all criteria of judging when I left him ; yet, how

* Such a procedure would be exemplarily punished in Ireland. Why does not a British legislature render so dangerous a practice punishable here likewise? Because it has been employed for some years past—dishonourable and inglorious years—in the destruction of them, instead of saving the lives of men!

how will *the apothecary* (his name I know not) acquit himself to his conscience, or his God, for taking upon him the moral responsibility of a man's life? Dying in my hands, or those of another regular bred physician, surviving friends should have *royal* and *academical* authority to take it for granted that every thing possible, or rational, had been done for him: but, in the present case, who will or can certify for the apothecary?

This daring practice, flying in the face both of divine and human laws, must be knocked in the head, else no individual, no family is safe from the deeds of professional vanity and indiscretion. The practice, too common, of apothecaries taking upon them to act as physicians, must either come under general discountenance, or the people run the risk of living but half their time, with the *consolation* of REWARDING the instruments of the fatal abbreviation! Let every reader seriously weigh the alternative.

But good shall come out of evil. The chief contents of the *apothecary's prescription* shall be analyzed. It is a confused jumble of use-
less

less drugs, and barbarous abbreviated Latin. The public, however, are indebted to it, as two celebrated officinals, which form its capital powers, shall have *justice* done them, in consequence of it.—I shall not comment on an order it contains for a plaster unknown to the shops. I wish not to be severer than the nature of self-defence, and lawful retaliation, should seem to authorise me.

The first is MUSK. This renowned drug I aver, from many years uniform experience, is as efficaciously applied to the nostrils, as when taken into the stomach, in all diseases at present known. From early deference for the schools I have been often induced to try it in a variety of cases, variously made up, but with constant disappointment. I have generally laid it aside for many years, to moulder and rot with the common trash of the shops. It spends its *virtues* as a perfume merely, and a disagreeable one too, on the olfactory nerves. Are the coats of the stomach, or orifices of the lacteal absorbents, olfactory nerves?—In the estimation of its powers I am an *unbribed* decisive judge; those who are assisted in making fortunes

fortunes by the sale of musk, are not. What merchant will disparage his goods, nay, will not puff them off as the very best any where to be bought? And what are apothecaries but merchants?—I allow the musk *julep* is good, in some reduced lingering fevers; but it is not the musk which has the good effects, but the *spiritus volatilis oliosus*, which forms a part of it. This ingredient renders the Edinburgh form preferable to the London. Had I not read Dr. Stork's book on the virtues of *Hemlock*, none of which have ever been certainly realized in Britain, I should be astonished at Dr. Wall's paper in the philosophical transactions, on the wonderful effects of *musk*. Writers treat a favourite *specific* as parents are wont to treat a favourite child, see virtues and excellencies in it, unknown to all the world beside.

The second grand article in the DOCTOR's receipt, is the *Confectio cardiaca*, or cordial confection. What is this boasted *preserve*, which the faculty are for ever extolling and prescribing?—It is a compound of what I would call a *solid* and *fluid dram*; proof spirit,

f and

and a few spices and herbs, with the absurd addition of crabs claws powdered. These jumbled together into a mass, S A, like the chaos of old, separate into two parts, the thick and the thin, every day losing their strength and virtue, by lying by. In this learned composition, many of the ingredients are totally insignificant, on account of the exceeding small proportion they bear in the largest dose of the Confection ever given, such as rosemary tops, juniper berries, cardamom seeds, zedoary, and saffron, which may be taken to *forty times* the quantity without any observable effect in any disorder I know; and as to the spices, cinnamon, nutmegs, &c. they are mere domestic culinary articles, well known to every good housewife in England. In short, brandy or wine and water drinks, with grated nutmeg, are in every respect equal to the elaborate electuary. In one respect the latter cordial (for both only act as such) has the advantage of the former. It is always at hand, and may be administered at the instant; whereas, in numberless instances, families are under the necessity of sending many miles off for the former, which may occasion delays, if cordials

are

are necessary, of a dangerous nature. The writer never makes any use of the *pompous compound*, which in draughrs is always inelegant, and falls to the bottom, and in bolus can never be taken without extreme disgust; but, in its stead, prescribes *home cordials*, which are ever more grateful to the patient's palate, as well as more certain in their effects. Physicians are startled at the exhibition of domestic spirits, however diluted, with the timidity of old women; but scruple not to prescribe *apothecary's drams* in abundance. How absurd, how painful to see a poor creature on a sick bed languish for hours together, in lowness and langours, waiting for a *prescribed cordial*, inferior in simplicity and virtue to many procurable at home ! *

C A S E

* *The college of physicians would seem no less superstitiously attached to the articles of their pharmacopoeia's, than Papists are to rites and ceremonies. The members, at their meetings, take upon them to settle and specify the terms of recovery and health for the body, with no less supreme confidence and dogmatism, than Roman Catholics (I wish I could not say Protestant bishops !)*

CASE SEVENTH,

THAT of the above patient's son, who was carried off in convulsions, owing to worms, as he complained for many days of severe pains in his stomach and bowels. They arose from no inflammatory cause, as he had not any unusual quickness of pulse, or thirst. I did what was possible to force the intestinal passage, by strong drastic medicines, and glysters ; in order to detach and carry off the *vermiculæ*, which, from every appearance, I had no doubt had fastened on the coats of the intestines, and penetrated them, for want of their accustomed nourishment. It could not be

bishops !) to settle and specify the terms of salvation for the soul. The best chance, in my opinion, and it has not been hastily formed, either for the health of the one, or salvation of the other, lies without the pale of both.—COMMON SENSE, if liberally educated, and perfectly disinterested in principle, though a member of no royal college, royal society, or priesthood, is superior to them all.

be done but, very partially by glysters, as the boy could neither be *tempted* or forced to take medicines in sufficient quantity. He however passed one worm, which served to characterize his disorder. In his remissions from pain, he was generally stupid and lethargic, for which I blistered him, but with no effect. I left him in this state, and, upon my return next day, found him violently convulsed, and therefore pronounced him—*gone*. A day or two before he died, one of his hands, with the nails, turned quite black, his mother informed me.—This indicated the utmost depravation of the juices, and general tendency to a putrid dissolution, of which I had seen three or four instances before, in bad worm cases.

C A S E E I G H T,

THAT of Mr. L—x, of a corpulent paralytic habit. I found him greatly oppressed, and incapable of the natural discharges; the abdomen prodigiously swelled and hard; his pulse quick and unequal; his breathing laborious; his tongue rough and dry;

and a general uneasiness all over him, accompanied with total weakness. The most alarming symptom was a stoppage of water. No time was to be lost. I ordered him a strong diuretic mixture, had him blistered, and left directions for glysters to be thrown up repeatedly, till he should be relieved in his bowels. Next day his son came to me with the pleasing account that his father had made large quantities of water, had had several stools, enjoyed upon the whole a good appetite, and seemed much lightened and refreshed, when he left him. *I was not desired to visit him, but gave directions what should be done.* He continued better for two or three days. On the fifth day from my first seeing him, his son called upon me a third time, telling me his father was grown worse, and requested me to visit him again.—I went, and found all his bad symptoms returned, attended with *convulsive hiccups*, and great restlessness. I ordered the musk and camphire juleps, to be taken at proper intervals, merely to please his friends, having no confidence in either; I begged of them strictly to follow my former directions, to keep the blister open, and constantly to give

give him supporting drinks. Upon taking leave, Mrs. L—x asked me if I could do no more for her husband, and talked of a *camphire plaster*, a composition unknown to the Dispensitory.—It is looked upon, I believe, as a kind of emulet or charm. I told her nothing farther could be done for Mr. L—x, in his then situation, and that to multiply medicines, in his case, would be useless and cruel. I was more explicit when I got down stairs, and intimated to his brother, that I had no hopes of his recovery, if the present method failed, adding that more visits from me would be as unnecessary as expensive, unless some unexpected favourable change should happen, of which I should be apprized. I spoke from direct knowledge at the time, from as accurate a balancing of the good and bad symptoms, as appeared to me possible. In such cases, I deem it *dishonest* and *ungenerous* to put families or individuals to expence, unless they *insist upon it*. But there was no injunction of the kind laid upon me at my departure, consequently, I considered myself as only bound to act in future according to the intimations I should occasionally receive from the family. My patient's
brother

brother seemed perfectly satisfied with the explicitness and candour of my conduct, and I took my leave, *without being professionally dismissed.*

In consequence of my still considering myself as the attendant physician, I next day impatiently expected young Mr. L—x to call upon me, as he had regularly done for some days before. But I was disappointed: no message whatever came from the family, nor had I time for particular enquiries, being busily employed in other parts of the country. The first thing I heard in a day or two was, that another person had the care of my patient, a recent graduate from Edinburgh, but latterly from Nottingham. I was the less hurt and surprised on this occasion, as I had been before similarly ill used in two cases, those of Mr. B—k, and Mr. N—l. I am not informed in what change of symptoms Dr. B— found my patient, or what method he instituted in lieu of, or supplementary to mine. These I require no information about, satisfied, if my plan fails in any case, the *stimulating, evacuating, and sustaining, "ACTUM EST DE AEGRO;"* grey-headed experience, as well

as

as professional nonage, will be alike impotent to go farther.—As to nostrums, alteratives, and specifics, such as *bark*, *musk*, *camphire*, *valerian*, &c. they may snatch away the honour of a cure in some particular instances, and wonderfully conciliate vulgar approbation; but without truth or merit.—In such cases, I am not to be made unhappy, as my satisfactions shall never depend upon *common opinions*, which are almost ever formed without judgment, and always with precipitancy. Beside, I will be allowed to say, my views are so perfectly disinterested, and my mind cast in so large a philosophical mould, that I shall always be highly gratified with the restoration of a valuable life to his family, and to society, whoever be allowed to carry off the eclat of the restoration. A principle of this kind, in the pleasure it gives, is far beyond professional renown, or narrow self-complacency.

CASE NINTH.

THE imperfection of medical skill,
the restricted boundaries of nosological
knowledge,

knowledge, joined with the most assiduous clinical experience, I have sincerely to deplore, in a recent instance, the last Case (and may it be the *last!*) misrepresented by the rude tongue of slander. The late Mr. S—gg—n came under my care on the *fourth day* of a bilious, putrid, lethargic fever. I found him heavy, oppressed, and sickish, with an atra bilarious look ; his pulse quick, small, and loaded ; his tongue thickly furred and dry, with universal langour, lassitude, and drowsy insensibility.—I gave him two antimonial pukes, had him blistered, and endeavoured by every means practicable to procure a free passage of his bowels. The emetics brought up much thick, pure bile ; the blisters rose happily and discharged ; and the intestinal canal was moderately opened, but never independent of injections of the most forcing kind. Opening medicines, however powerful, never appeared to pass freely downward. He made large quantities of water, to the last highly saturated with bile. Indeed, his whole system of juices seemed impregnated, in a surprising manner, with this excrementitious secretion, insomuch that the serous discharge

from

from his blisters contained so much of it as to tinge every thing it touched with a deep yellow. The type of his fever was thus apparent, but it had some uncommon characteristics beside ; such as paralytic agitations and tremours ; constant hoarseness ; indistinctness of speech ; unconsciousness of his situation, (his uniform reply to enquiries being “ very well, I thank you, pretty well, I thank you ”) and difficulty of swallowing. The cause of this symptom, however, and the raucity, appeared afterwards. With great struggle, and not without manual assistance, he got rid of two flesh-like excrescences, about the size of a common oyster, glutinous, inodorous, and hard to separate. More of these unusual adherences were certainly left behind, investing the œsophagus and trachea, probably, as he continued to be hoarse and obstructed in swallowing to the last, though, for a short time, relieved by the extraction of the fleshy pieces above mentioned.

Notwithstanding such a variety of discouraging appearances, which, in my mind, even at first, rendered his case extremely doubtful, yet, in consequence of the external stimulus

and drain kept up, and generous nourishment, of which he took a reasonable quantity, he evidently gained ground ; insomuch that I allowed him to get up, and sit in his chair, which he bore, to all appearance, well. Matters appeared so favourable, that the sending for an additional physician, which we all wished for a day or two before, was postponed. In the interim he was struck with the propriety of cancelling an old will, and making a new one. He was so engrossed with the idea, that he did not think of consulting me whether he could undertake the business with safety, considering the extremely critical situation he was then in. It was accomplished to his liking in about two hours, during which time he, more than once, almost fainted away. — I called upon him in the evening, and was surprised to find him greatly altered for the worse ; his pulse considerably quickened, with an alarming agitation of spirits, and dilirious inattention to what passed about him. Being informed how he had been employed, my surprise abated, but not my apprehensions of imminent danger. — I requested another physician to be directly sent for.

Dr.

Dr. S—r of N—t—h came next morning. We perfectly agreed in our prognostic, and mode of treatment, and took leave of each other with the full conviction that our patient's was an hopeless case, nay, with such a pulse (146 in a minute) that he had a chance of not surviving till next morning. Dr S—r was asked, upon going away, if he thought his return would be necessary. He candidly declared it would not, and that he had the satisfaction of leaving our joint patient in good hands. These particulars accidentally met my ear after the Doctor's departure. Indeed, two professional men of honour, candour, and rational information, can never materially differ in any case. Having concluded, in consultation, that every farther assistance, from medicine, seemed precluded by the then alarming circumstances of our patient's case, except additional external stimulants, to rouse the general stupor, and call forth the suspended powers of the constitution, assisted by cordial draughts, when he could swallow them; *these* were persevered in for some days. At first, during their operation, he appeared

to be more himself, to speak more articulately, and somewhat to swallow better ; but the other unfavourable symptoms continued the same ; his tongue hard, dry, and rough ; his urine still wonderfully impregnated with bile, not kindly subsiding, but throwing a greasy sort of substance on the surface ; (always a discouraging appearance in fevers) a total unconsciousness of his condition ; paralytic imbecility all over him, associated with comatose sleeps, disturbed and unrefreshing ; and his bowels obstinately impervious, but to force.

His blisters now began to discharge vast quantities of dark bloody sanies, without smell ; and, where the sinapisms lay, little blisters arose full of biliary serum. The putrid diathesis seemed to have got far into the system, and to have acquired powers far beyond the check of medical skill. The discharge by the blisters, great as it was, seemed not in the least to mitigate the general train of threatening symptoms, nor were they felt with that degree of acute sensibility which surely proves firm and unbroken stamina, and a considerable degree of active resisting life.

In this forlorn state of things — my worthy patient's constitution utterly incapable of making any effort for itself, and every remedy that had been tried, *almost* as impotent to assist it; in the uncertainty of balanced hopes and fears among numerous friends (the writer scarce ever dared to hope) and with the most anxious wishes to give every chance of recovery to a useful and much esteemed character, it was agreed on all hands to make a full trial of *James's Powder*, justly, I believe, celebrated for effecting cures in desperate cases. The writer has none of that mistaken and ungracious academical pride, which would despise a medicine, the powers of which have been often tried and authenticated, because it passes under the name of a quack medicine.

I procured it genuine at a chymist's shop in town, for it is often counterfeited. I began with the refracted dose of five grains; which, having no visible effect, during an interval sufficient for the experiment, I increased it to half, and then to whole papers; but am sorry to acquaint the reader, that no effect whatever was the consequence. If there shone a ray of flattering hope before, now it was clouded, while

while the countenance of expectation universally fell.—The coats of the stomach, &c. seemed entirely to have lost irritability and action, the want of which now became general, accompanied with symptoms of stopt circulation in the extremities. His inability to swallow increased more and more; he seemed insensible to questions asked him; took little notice of any object; received support only by tea spoonfuls, and even that with uneasy deglutition; generally lay in one posture, with now and then paralytic startings, or *subfultus tendinum*; his voice by degrees totally failed him; his limbs and hands grew cold, and his pulse imperceptible.—At length the larger circulation stopt, and *that* heart ceased beating, without pain or apparent struggle, which never did beat but with friendship and benevolence! Two days before he died (he died the 20th of his illness, and 16th of my attendance) an uncommon leprous eruption broke out on the top of his nose, resembling hoar frost, in whiteness and size, and spread gradually over his face and hands. It was an appearance I had never observed or read of before, and ascertained the highly vitiated and unconquerable acrimony of his juices.

It

It may be asked by those who are more curious than learned, more happy to surmise ill, than to suppose good,* why the bark, in the above Case, was not thrown in, as the vulgar phrase is. Not for the satisfaction of such inquisitive interrogists, for they deserve it not, but to satisfy a large circle of most respectable friends, the question shall be answered.

In the first place, it was given my patient before I saw him, but with no good effect. In the second, supposing the administration of this popular *nostrum* had been advisable in the progress of the disorder, he could not have swallowed any quantity of it to do good.

And,

* On so serious a subject, might I mention a ludicrous circumstance, I would make the reader smile at tea-meetings of ladies, criticising a Physician's prescriptions, deciding scientifically on the strength of his pills, powders, pukes, &c. It is not enough that he may have long since passed examinations before the Professors of a learned University, but he must stand the daily ordeal of a JURY OF MATRONS.—Were the gentle sex as learned at home, in a thousand useful and amiable occupations, they would do themselves intrinsic honour, instead of throwing it away on a thankless Physician.

And, in the third place, I never thought of ordering *the bark*, because I am an utter stranger to its virtues, after many years trial of it. I see it daily doing harm, by loading the stomach, palling the appetite, and superceding, during its exhibition, *active* medicines whose effects are visible, and therefore unequivocal ; I therefore consider it as a good-for-nothing, a professional charm *thrown in* to bewitch a disorder, and perfectly as impotent to cure fevers of any type, as the ROYAL TOUCH to cure strumous sores.

Thus the world lost a worthy, pleasing character ; the poor a constant generous benefactor ; kindred an affectionate relation ; and the writer a warm steady friend.—He enjoyed through life one enviable singularity : *all spoke well of him, with scarce an exception.* This happy distinction he acquired by a method which will rarely fail. He never intermeddled with the private concerns of others ; immediately suppressed every *bad report*, and propagated every *good one*. This is an universal receipt for the acquisition of character, and purchase of general esteem, and I am happy to illustrate

illustrate it by a particular instance every one will recollect with pleasure, convinced my pen cannot be better employed, than in recommending an imitation of *so amiable a singularity* to all.

The too common practice of genteel life, unoccupied by virtuous cares, studies, and solicitudes, the cultivation of the mind, the moral discipline of the heart, and doing all the practical good possible to *neighbours and fellow creatures*—is people attending Church punctually day after day, and then going on a tour of visits, to pick up scandalous chit chat, and defamatory tittle tattle, which they consolidate and convert into *serious attacks* on the most innocent and inoffensive characters!—Our Saviour assures us that “*every idle word which men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*” What then must be the account to be given for **WICKED WORDS**! For falsehoods willingly credited, without examination, and assiduously circulated, with additions, from house to house, which are meant to strike at the root of professional integrity and usefulness!—When I see the old, insensibly creeping into their graves, setting so unbecoming

coming an example, and the young, catching it by imitation with an earnestness unknown to their devotions, I feel for the honour of human nature, and moral decency, insulted through the misconduct of such persons.

I should not have published the foregoing Cases, had not a justifiable regard for my public character, laid me under the necessity. It was with great reluctance I was induced to leave other studies, to comment upon cases in self-justification. I had no alternative, but either to sit down contented under a load of obloquy unprovoked, and censure undeserved, or to stand boldly forth, as I have done, to vindicate myself. Those who are conscious to themselves of having brought on the disagreeable alternative, by double meaning whispers, equivocal inuendo's, and ambiguous hints, are answerable for it at the bar of the public.— A physician's usefulness is gone when reports, professionally injurious to him, are propagated and believed. He that survives his reputation, survives his better part; and he that defends it when attacked, defends the only thing valuable in this world, and for which there is no substitute.

substitute.—A man may be rich ; but riches, so far from amounting to the purchase of character, often tend morally to degrade and tarnish it.

Along with self-defence, rendered indispensable, the world has a short sketch of the principles on which the writer's practice is founded. Steadily pursued, in the face of habit and prejudice, they will seldom disappoint any one but—Death aiming his arrow at the heart.—As proof unquestionable into what estimation they get, the generous reader will rejoice to know, that even the writer's professional enemies in Newark, and elsewhere, have adopted them.—If good be done, he cares not who hath done it ; and if lives are saved to society, blessed are those that save them. He wishes such success, and that it may flourish on the ruins of conceit and selfishness.

Valcant quantum valere potest.

I shall conclude with requesting those who wish to have my advice, to send for me without applying to the apothecaries, who, for the most part, mismanage disorders, by reducing the strength of the constitution, what the

physician is to act upon, prescribing loads of promiscuous drugs, without diagnostic or plan,* by which they become anamolous, obstinate, and tedious. Most disorders are easily managed

* As a proof that I am not to be led astray from general principles even by the nearest considerations of blood, I beg leave to mention, that I have an only brother, a surgeon and apothecary in a considerable town in Ireland, who is as likely to make a fortune, and as intent upon making it, I believe, as most men.—One part of his trade I hold in utter dislike, the other in great estimation. The business of a surgeon can seldom be mistaken, or misapplied. It deals little in equivocal theory, or uncertain speculation; to extract, separate, incarne, unite, &c. are its triumphs, visible to every eye, and expansive of every grateful heart. But what are the triumphs of the apothecary? A monstrous retail profit on drugs, that are too dearly bought by being swallowed for nothing, and singularly lucky in their administration, if they do no harm. Innocence in the operation of drugs, as commonly exhibited, is a proof of their virtues.

But

managed at the beginning ; but misconceived, and put in a wrong course at first, are most difficult of cure. I wish the public would seriously attend to this interesting circumstance, and

But innocent or hurtful, those who sell them get opulent thereby. Their care is—not how many of the afflicted and diseased their draughts and boluses may have relieved—but how much they have pocketed of property, how rich they grow, in proportion to the miseries of mankind.— Further, as a remarkable instance how far the habit of retailing drugs may tend to cloud the understanding, suppress the powers of reasoning, and subtract from the dignified ambition of thinking for one's self, I will be excused for mentioning a person married to a near relation of the writer's. He was bred an apothecary, and practised as such for many years ; but, in the unaccountable rotation of blind incident, he now possesses an estate of £2000 per annum in England. His wife (an excellent woman!—the reader will permit me to say so) has been greatly afflicted with biliary cholicks, oftentimes excessively violent, and not less often mistaken for hysterical

and be assured, that druggists and chymists are no less authorized, and, in general, no less qualified, than apothecaries, to judge of diseases, and institute modes of treatment. — The people by coming to the physician at once, without

hysterical or nervous affections. To relieve these, his usual custom was to administer opiates, and medicines under the denomination of, nervous, and hysterical. Repetitions of these dangerous sedatives, or useless palliatives, so increased and inveterated her complaints, that he was obliged to apply to every physician almost he met with, at London, Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, &c. to rectify his own mismanagement. — Powerful evacuants of the bile were all the Lady required, with generous support, during their operation, and a regulated diet; but, instead of these, he poured in his narcotics, and alteratives, to the injury of her constitution and health. — O Fortune! what is thy value, if not the means of enlightening the understanding; increasing our stock of knowledge; expanding the heart; conquering our narrow prejudices, and habits; rendering us more extensively useful to mankind, and more mentally delighted with ourselves!

without asking the apothecary's leave, will find it turn to the advantage not only of their constitutions, but their purses ; and, as few drugs will be wanted in this way, let the apothecaries raise the price of those that may, if agreeable to patients. People, in general, I am convinced, would rather pay in quadruple proportion for a few drugs, than have a multiplicity on the most moderate terms, with the distressing condition annexed of, *swallowing them.*—As to the poor—the family of God—they are all welcome to my advice and medicines : many have already come and been recovered, or considerably relieved.

How cruel and disgraceful the common practice of my *brethren*, not to attend the poor, whatever may be their maladies or afflictions, unless the parishes to which they belong become responsible for their being paid ! If God is to have mercy upon them according to the mercy they shew, what will be their fate ! Fortunes made in this way will one day or other be a *curse* to the possessor ; neither can I think such persons can die with any just foundation of hope for future happiness, except they make

restitution in their life, by refunding the sums of money they may have acquired in so unchristian-like a manner.—The *Samaritan*, when he pitied and humanely bound up the wounded traveller's sores, so far from being rewarded for it, added to the generous act, by leaving money behind him for the future accommodation of the poor sufferer. And what is the precept annexed to the feeling narrative? It is this, and it is addressed to every man—" Go THOU AND DO LIKEWISE."—This precept, illustrated by so happy a parable, I have no doubt is as obligatory upon all as " thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal."—

POSTSCRIPT.

POSTSCRIPT.

AS the subject of the following letter, through the accustomed medium of misrepresentation, will most probably be *whispered* about to the writer's disadvantage, as many other things have industriously been, it forms a Postscript for the candid reader's information. Indeed the subject belongs to the world, and is not a private matter between a particular family and him.—Anticipation of *wrong* is the surest security of *right*.—He has no object but truth, and to stand fair in the eyes of those who love it.—It has few deviations from the original, which was sent.—The letter has no *initials*, as those more particularly interested require none.—It likewise contains useful hints of professional information, therefore, properly succeeds the foregoing Cases. Lastly, it will serve to arrest, in future, it is hoped, the bloody hands of our PHLEBOTOMISTS, whose deeds of daring are coloured over, to families and individuals,

upon the most erroneous maxims, and absurdest principles.

Nemo diu gaudet qui judice vincit iniquo.

SIR,

I AM disagreeably obliged to inform you, *why* I have discontinued any longer to attend Mrs. —. My further attendance I found would be inconsistent with my own feelings, which I shall always hold sacred, as well as with the honour of the profession I publicly support. Indeed, out of regard to you, and your family, I endeavoured to suppress, for several days, what I felt and thought on account of the extremely awkward situation I was reduced to, *that of seeing my patient treated according to the prescriptions of another.*

I cannot persuade myself, from your frequent warmly expressed partiality for me, a flattering disposition which seemed to run through all your family, that you mean joining my willing enemies in Newark. Should

I, however,

I, however, find myself unhappy disappointed in this particular, the event shall only serve to rouse me to double exertions in defending my character, in conjunction with the independence and dignity of physic.

From the beginning of my attendance, I proposed *cordials* for Mrs. — from my best judgment, to obviate the excessive weakness and lowness brought on by the frequent blood-lettings she underwent ; but you all exclaimed against them in a most particular manner : yet, in consequence of a *third* use of the lancet, in such circumstances of alarm as to be succeeded, a few hours afterward, by universal chills, rigours, and fits of *syncope*, threatening an immediate stoppage of the circulation, or death, you allowed the apothecary to *prescribe* my rejected medicines — *cordials* — under the specious term of *volatile draughts* (that is, medical *drams* !) to counteract those unfavourable symptoms the management of her case, contrary to my advice, had brought on.

Not only so, but he was suffered, nay, apparently, invited to *justify* his practice in my presence, and that of the patient.—My

silence, I am sure, disappointed him ; for were I to submit to altercations with apothecaries, in the bedchambers of patients, I should soon be under the necessity of holding them with all the nurses and gossiping good people in the neighbourhood.

You all, Sir, asserted that Mrs. — would have died for want of breath, had she not been blooded. But, Sir, the assertion was used to cover a mistake : it had no scientific meaning at the time ; neither was there any person present, as a competent judge, to decide on the grand circumstances of life and death.— No instance has ever occurred, I am confident, of a patient having been suddenly carried off in such a stage of the disorder. The worst that could have happened would have been, a partial inflammation, with consequent suppuration (always preferable to *resolution* through the medium of the lancet) by which, the powers of the constitution unweakened by presumptuous art, the disease would have spent itself. A fit of distress and impatience under pain, was not the act of dying.— Farther, instead of being relieved by blood taken from her

arm

arm in large quantities, except at the moment of emission, she grew worse and worse in her breathing, by the vessels being thereby so far emptied of their contents, as to be incapable of sustaining, without quick and painful struggles, the complicated office of respiration.

A large blister, some days previous to my being called in, clapt to the side, before the circulatory warmth and energy had been considerably reduced by repeated *venesections*, would have rose, I am certain, quickly, and effectually dissolved the muscular and respiratory spasm, which was Mrs. —'s most menacing complaint.—In lieu of this discreet early application, the lancet (more fatal in the *professional hand*, than the tomahawk in the *savage's*) was freely used at first, and the strength and life let out; in consequence of which (I appeal to facts) a blister at length applied did not rise so as to keep the *intercostal stricture* in check, which tightened and confined the action of breathing, and, in truth, constituted Mrs. —'s disease.—From simple depletion, and inanition, the *expectorating matter* was prevented from forming, or, had it been

been formed, from being ejected by the muscular powers of the thorax. Hence every bad and justly alarming symptom, you, Sir, more than once, wept over before me!—Farther,

Bleeding and, then, blistering, were *self-contradictory* operations; the one acting as a *sedative* and *weakner*, the other tending to *rouse* and *invigorate*. Hence the extreme indiscretion and absurdity of the **COMMON PRACTICE** are apparent.—To *debilitate* the constitution, in order to *enable* it to throw off a disorder, *rob* it of its tone and activity first, latterly to *increase* the one, and *stimulate* the other, appears to me, I confess, a mode of treatment which passes all understanding.*

To

* As a recent *cafe in point*, but treated the very reverse of Mrs. —'s, it becomes necessary to mention that of JOHN OLIVER, of Mr. Simpson's workshop, coachmaker in Newark. His disorder was a more violent fever than that of the *Lady's* (so injudiciously treated) accompanied with *stitches*, *dyspnoea*, *spitting of blood*, and *ulcerated leg*. I was early called in; prevented *bloodletting*; applied *blisters*; persevered in

in

To draw towards a conclusion, Sir, I most sincerely wish the recovery of Mrs. —* by any

in keeping them open; with other concomitant assistances; and he is now (November 3d.) got abroad, perfectly cured, and capable of business.

— Had he fallen into the apothecary's hands, been repeatedly blooded, and kept on a low regimen, like Mrs. —, he should probably have turned out an ailing, miserable spectacle for life! —

This living, thankful proof of a rational plan, should seem to carry truth and conviction with it, beyond a thousand arguments. — A disorder that is cured, by leaving a worse behind in its place, a train of helpless, hopeless, endless complaints, upbraiding the morning sun for the suddenness of its appearance, at the same time, dreading the approach of sleepless nights, silent, solitary, and comfortless. — Alas! what an insult upon the unhappy patient, and burlesque upon medical science! — Yet such are half the CURES of modern times!

Hæret in lateri lethalis arundo.

* This gentlewoman's constitution has been often mentioned as uncommonly unique. But it

any means; at the same time I know that the
large

it is a mistake, and it has been owing entirely to want of depth of knowledge. The received opinions of common life are as astonishingly absurd, as they are unsafe and distressing in their results.—People who are only competent to furnish out their tables, carry on business with adroit meum and tuum sagacity, go to market discreetly, throw off the intolerable load of time (the sweetest and lightest of burdens to THE WISE!) over a novel (their BIBLES maintime seldom read!) or sauntering, step forward to discent physically on CONSTITUTIONS, and the infinite variety of them that take place in different persons.—Could one be attended to, in this fashionable and polite age, who has all along lived a life of sober study, and disinterested enquiry, he would say that the term constitution, in every body's mouth, is misconceived of by every body, even the most learned.

There are but two kinds of constitution, the weak and the strong; the one requiring support, the other to be cautiously brought down under the attack of disorders. The faculty of eating and drinking

large quantity of Blood* she had lost, contrary to the soundest and most rational indications, will, recover when she may, leave her in such a forlorn state of lowness, sinking, and despondency, as, to me, would be a life less eligible than

drinking more or less, sleeping, exercising, and being subject to acute, or chronic diseases, are the mere accidents and habits of these primary constitutions. The degrees between the strongest and weakest, it is allowed, are many, and continually varying, but these only amount to a distinction, not a difference. The doctrine of the schools, on this subject, is assumed, handed down from one generation to another without analysis or proof, and, so far as it deviates from bare hypothesis, and regulates practice, it is equivocal and unsafe. The learned term *idiosyncrasy*, with which are connected certain idiopathic affections, fills the ear without informing the understanding, like a thousand other medical technicisms, and things taken for granted.

* *Bloodletting is often useless, but much oftener dangerous, in most disorders. The great*

than death.—The last time she was treated in a similar way, about four or five years since, by a favourite physician of your family, she was reduced, in consequence of it, to such a condition of inward suffering and misery, accompanied

sanguineous circulation is never the seat of a disease. The vessels subservient to it are too capacious in diameter, and too powerfully excited to constant motion, to admit of such a locality, or remora, as to constitute a specific disease.—A putrid diathesis of the blood, or dissolutional tendency of the juices, is the absence of a local ailment. In short, it is a commencement of the act of dying, or the body breaking down into its elementary parts, with which life, or consciousness, is not connected.—Farther, Venæction is an enemy to all located, or stationary disorders, which, properly managed, tend effectually to unload the constitution, and extend the term of life. In this respect the DEITY himself may be said to work daily miracles, through the medium of wisdom and sagacity.—It throws the animal œconomy back upon itself; by which all the secretions are disturbed, interrupted, and rendered imperfect in their several processes.

Every

accompanied with weakness and faintness, till confessedly relieved by me, which, in my choice, could have no compensation in the mere pleasure of breathing. — Beside, Sir, you (and your

case

*Every operation of the human machine points to an outlet, or discharge, after the office of nutriment and accretion of parts has been performed, except the life of man, THE BLOOD! — This vital current is the grand constitutional nisus, or *perpetuum mobile*, to supply and support those outlets and discharges, so indispensable to life. Taking away blood, therefore, checks the push from the centre to the circumference, and tends to promote a *REFLUX*, or retrograde circulation; by which the arterial system principally, and all the secretions secondary to or connected with it, are materially affected, that is, in language tighter drawn, diseases ensue. To give an illustrative representation of the whole. Bloodletting, with respect to the cure of topical or located complaints, is similar to the act of destroying a citadel, and putting its complement of men to the sword, in order to enable the governor to defend the redoubts, or make a sally.*

case was vastly more violent than that of Mrs. —) would now have been in your grave, according to all human likelihood, instead of being stout and healthy as you are, to the satisfaction of all your friends, had not the blood-

The substitution of one disorder for another, in technical phraseology, is performing a cure. Thus fevers are cured, by ending in depravation of appetite, indigestion, flatulences, dropsical or oedematus swellings, cachexies, atrophy, marasmus, &c. Thus stitches in the side, local pain, asthma, anhelation, will yield, for a short time, to the blood vessels being emptied by the hardy phlebotomist, instead of the unsound being separated from the sound juices, by external stimulus and sore. But what are the consequences? Such as good sense and judicious experience will always predict, and they are these—such a reduced habit of body; relaxed system of the nerves; windy distentions of the viscera; imperfect secretions; intolerable painful anxiety about the region of the spleen, liver, and gall bladder; universal imbecility and langours; as should seem to render the patient's situation worse than the original disorder.

blood-besprinkled hand of *Phlebotomy* been staid.—These, Sir, are strong circumstances, and what should have kept you and your family steady to rational advice.

It

disorder—even left to itself and the constitution, oftentimes the best prescribers—could possibly have done.—These are many of the CURES of modern times!—these the triumphs of the lancet, used on a narrow deficient scale of science and information!

Phlebotomists keep their FATAL PRACTICE in countenance, with the people, by exhibiting, to vulgar gaze, the fizzy or buffy appearance on the surface of the cold extracted blood. But such an appearance, though it too effectually serves to sanctify ignorance and mistake, is a mere *deception visus*, and *depends mechanically*, in a great measure, on the size of the venæctional puncture, and manner of the blood flowing from the vein.—Even supposing the emitted blood to be what it is not, for argument sake, i e, corrupt bad blood, it always forms a small proportion to the aggregate quantity contained in the cup, perhaps, as one to seven; so that this NOTORIOUS

It is a real misfortune, Sir, that people in general do not take a comprehensive enough view of things, do not look forward attentively to their remote consequences, satisfied with present plausible appearances, according to which,

OUS OPERATION, in order to free the ill advised credulous patient of one ounce bad, robs him or her of seven ounces good blood!!—I have materials of information in my hands, conveyed through different channels, and which shall be made public, if necessary, by which it will appear, that numbers have been SCIENTIFICALLY BLED TO DEATH in this country.—I was myself a distressed witness to two cases of the kind, since I came to Newark, whom I ineffectually endeavoured to save.—Had the lancet been withheld, and blisters instantaneously applied to the proper place, accompanied with co-operative wise management in other respects, I have no doubt, on the common probabilities of discreet analogy, both would have lived many years, as useful heads of families, and members of the community.—It appears, then, that my professional enemies are enemies to the public, from false science, and erroneous

which, one disorder is cured (as it is called) by a sure foundation being laid for another, and perhaps a worse. Yet,

—*quæ res in se neque consilium, neque modum
Habet ullum, eam consilio regere non potes.*

I have

erroneous principles, which are worse than none: respecting the latter, I do not say they are so, ex animo, but *de facto*. Mine, therefore, is the cause of the people, a cause entitled to the noblest and firmest support.—But the mischiefs of rashly spilling man's blood, among other interesting topics, make part of another medical tract, which will soon be ready for publication.—The writer, in the meantime, rests fully satisfied, he cannot be more usefully employed, or fulfil, to better purpose, the great ends of being, (which is, doubtless, something more “than just to look about us and to die,”) than by endeavouring to relieve the pains and distresses of fellow men, and secure to them the greatest of all blessings, without which even a throne should seem a burden and an insult to the possessor, that of health.—

I have only to observe farther, Sir, on this occasion, and it is with feeling and regret I observe it, that I would rather have an *hundred* persons my enemies, from no intentional fault of mine, and with whom I never had any acquaintance or connection, than lose *one friend* who thought himself authorized, and not seldom made it his particular business, to speak handsomely of your correspondent.

I remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

WILLIAM STEVENSON.

Newark, October 22,

1781.

F I N I S.

THE good-natured reader will correct the following *errata* with his pen as he goes along, among others which *great haste* may have occasioned.

Page 10, line 14, for “signatrues,” read *signatures*.—Page 46, last line, for “drugen-age,” read *drug-enamoured age*.—Page 74, line 11, for “strength,” read *strengthen*.—Idem, line 18, for “mechannically,” read *mechanically*.—Page 94, line 8, for “chemist,” read *chymist*.—Page 101, line 7, (the note) for “consumate,” read *consummate*.—Page 103, last line but one, after “reserved,” read *for*.—Page 110, line 16, (the note) for “and,” read *&c.*.—Page 118, line 19, for “Nahil,” read *Nihil*.—Page 154, line 20, for “rarily,” read *rarely*.—